



Alaska Conservation Foundation

Annual Report *July 1, 2008–June 30, 2009*

2010 Calendar



THE ALASKA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

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Dear Friend of Alaska,

We are pleased to present our latest Annual Report & 2010 Calendar, highlighting ACF's success in protecting our nation's last great wilderness, and in building a powerful conservation voice for Alaska.

This has been a challenging year for our grantees across Alaska, with conservation funding on the decline nationwide. The funding shortfall, combined with ever-increasing demand for Alaska's natural resources, has made ACF's role in ensuring Alaska's healthy future more important than ever. **We are pleased to report that your foundation has risen to the challenge: as we enter our 30th year, we have just concluded the largest grantmaking year in our history—\$2.3 million—and have launched an important new program (page 28) to help Alaska's conservation community grow stronger through this transition period.**

Our Community Capacity program assists grantees as they navigate a new economic and political reality while implementing strategies to sustain Alaska's conservation movement over the long term. It is a monumental step toward reaching our goal of a healthy Alaska protected by a diverse and powerful conservation community.

In our calendar stories, you'll learn how ACF grants were used to protect areas like Bristol Bay, the Tongass, the Yukon River, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and more.

We hope that you enjoy this combination annual report and calendar, our least expensively produced annual report in 4 years. Please consider having it sent to your friends who care about Alaska by using the enclosed card. We need your help to build the network of concerned citizens who care about protecting Alaska's future.

Our report and calendar are testament to the achievements you made possible. ACF is your foundation. The trust you place in us is a special gift because it means you recognize how truly important Alaska is to the world.

With great appreciation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Bundy".

Bob Bundy
Chair, Board of Trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Hardigg".

Nick Hardigg
Executive Director

“Coal is my worst nightmare.” ~ Dr. Steven Chu, US Secretary of Energy and Nobel Prize-Winning Physicist, April 27, 2007

ALASKA'S COAL: Threatening Wild Lands and Our Global Climate

The myriad threats to Alaska's wild lands are well known, including hard rock mining, oil and gas development, old-growth logging, and more. Far lesser known is the growing demand for developing its vast coal resources—estimated at one-eighth of the world's reserves. Keeping this coal in the ground is one of America's greatest opportunities to address climate change, and is a priority for ACF.

With the rise in population and a global middle class, energy demand worldwide is ballooning. Readily available fossil fuels are diminishing. **As a result, Alaska's massive coal reserves, with their proximity to global shipping routes, are seen as an answer for burgeoning Asian markets. This imperils not only Alaskan habitat, but our world's climate as well.**

In Alaska, the irony of a coal-based future is clear: **Alaska is witnessing tangible effects of rapid climate change more than any other state.** During the last four decades, Alaska's annual temperatures have increased 3–5°F and our winter temperatures have soared 7–10°F. Alaska's heralded wild fisheries are beginning to show mercury contamination from distant coal plants, with the state issuing fish consumption warnings for the first time in our history.

Yet despite coal's possible implications of global climate change, mercury contamination, and habitat destruction, it is positioned to play a leading role in worldwide energy supplies throughout this century. **The coal industry is investing millions in national ad campaigns to delude the public into believing in “clean coal” technologies,** as well as in lobbying efforts and political campaigns to prompt passage of laws, rules, and appropriations that will set the stage for a coal-dependent future.

But as a nation, we can do better. We can embrace new technologies for greater efficiency and use of renewable energy sources. We can leave coal buried beneath America's last great herds of caribou and salmon streams. ACF is playing a lead role in this strategy, building support and awareness to protect our lands and climate.

For the sake of the planet, it is imperative that we keep Alaska's vast coal reserves in the ground.

- ⊕ Alaska possesses up to 50% of United States' coal reserves, which equates to nearly 12% of total global coal reserves.
- ⊕ Burning coal is the greatest human-generated source of CO₂ to the atmosphere, which is considered the primary cause of global climate change.
- ⊕ At present, there is just one active coal mine in Alaska. **The state generates less than 10% of its power from coal,** compared to the national average of 50%.
- ⊕ Alaska's Western Arctic contains a hypothetical reserve of 4 trillion tons of coal that extend beneath 30,000 square miles of state, federal, and Native lands.
- ⊕ Alaska's most imminent coal threat is the proposed Chuitna coal strip mine, located just 45 miles west of Anchorage across Cook Inlet—with estimated reserves of 300 million metric tons of coal.
- ⊕ If fully developed, the Chuitna Mine could become one of the five largest coal mines in US history and add 54 billion tons of CO₂ to the Earth's atmosphere annually.
- ⊕ The Chuitna project would strip mine through 11 miles of salmon spawning streams, a practice which has previously never been permitted in Alaska.



One-eighth of the world's coal lies beneath Alaska's vast wild lands and waters, threatening not only vital habitat, but our global climate as well.

ALASKA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION



Entering our 30th year safeguarding Alaska's future

Since 1980, in our unique role as the only public foundation dedicated to conservation in Alaska, the Alaska Conservation Foundation has served as a funder and fiscal sponsor for nonprofit organizations that work to protect and wisely manage Alaska's natural resources. In addition, we provide organizational support to strengthen the grassroots conservation community of Alaska.

We focus on resolving conservation challenges and developing partnerships to respond to conservation issues that threaten Alaska's wildlife, waters, wilderness, and people. We provide leadership and coordination of sensible efforts to achieve this goal.

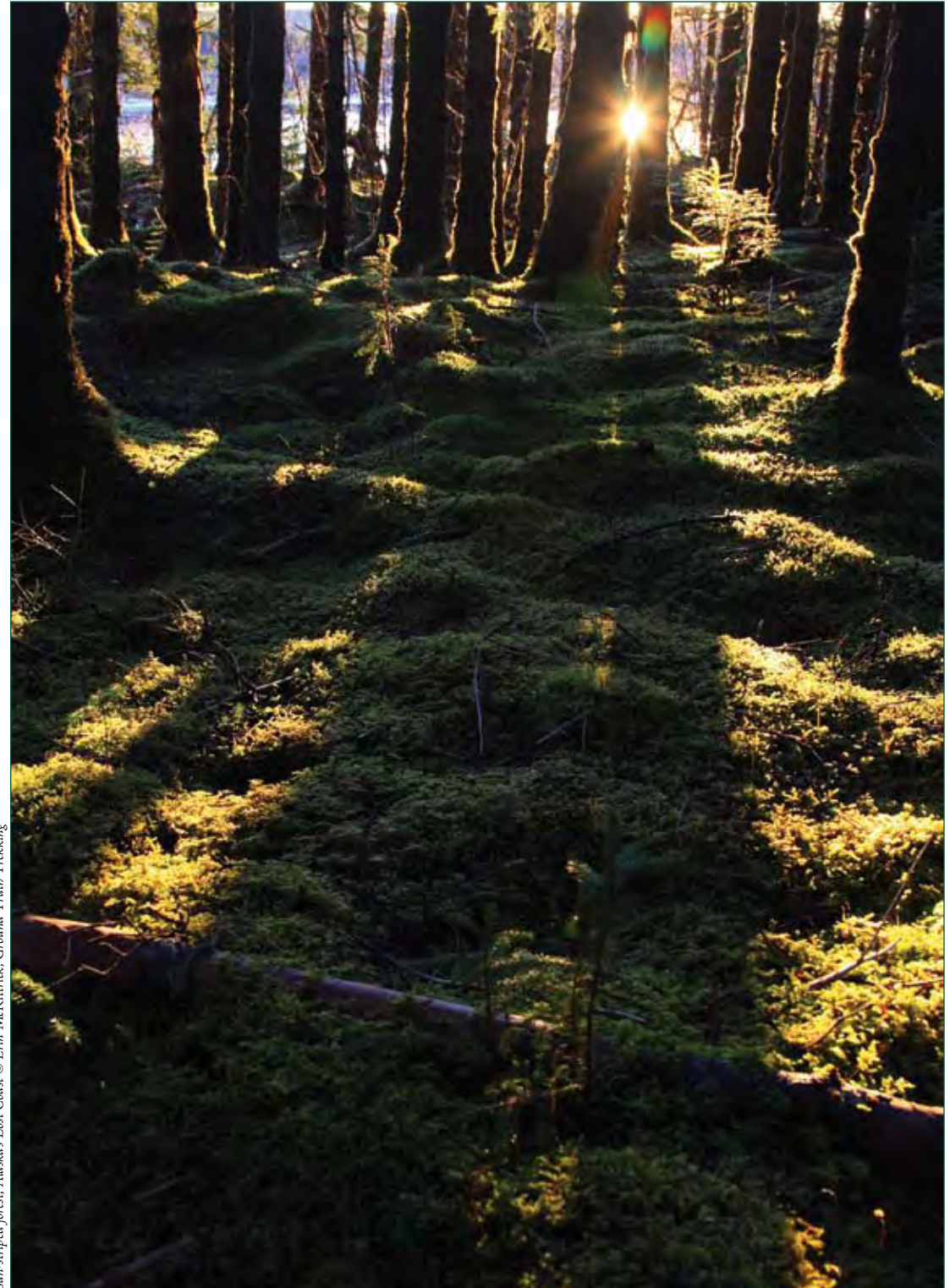
The Alaska Conservation Foundation is a focal point for the state's conservation community, fostering collaboration among local, state, and national organizations on shared goals for environmental protection. We also serve as a source of information about Alaska resource issues for a national constituency—including donors and foundations—concerned about preserving the integrity of Alaska's ecosystems and its natural beauty.

We are supported by foundations and individuals from Alaska and across the country who have joined us to protect and preserve Alaska. We then partner with grassroots conservation groups across the state and provide them with funding, as well as strategic and organizational assistance. The local groups do the "hands-on" conservation work required in their communities.

The Alaska Conservation Foundation—working to make sure Alaska's wilderness and wildlife remain healthy and beautiful for generations to come.

Our mission

The Alaska Conservation Foundation builds strategic leadership and support for Alaskan efforts to take care of wild lands, waters, and wildlife, which sustain diverse cultures, healthy communities, and prosperous economies.

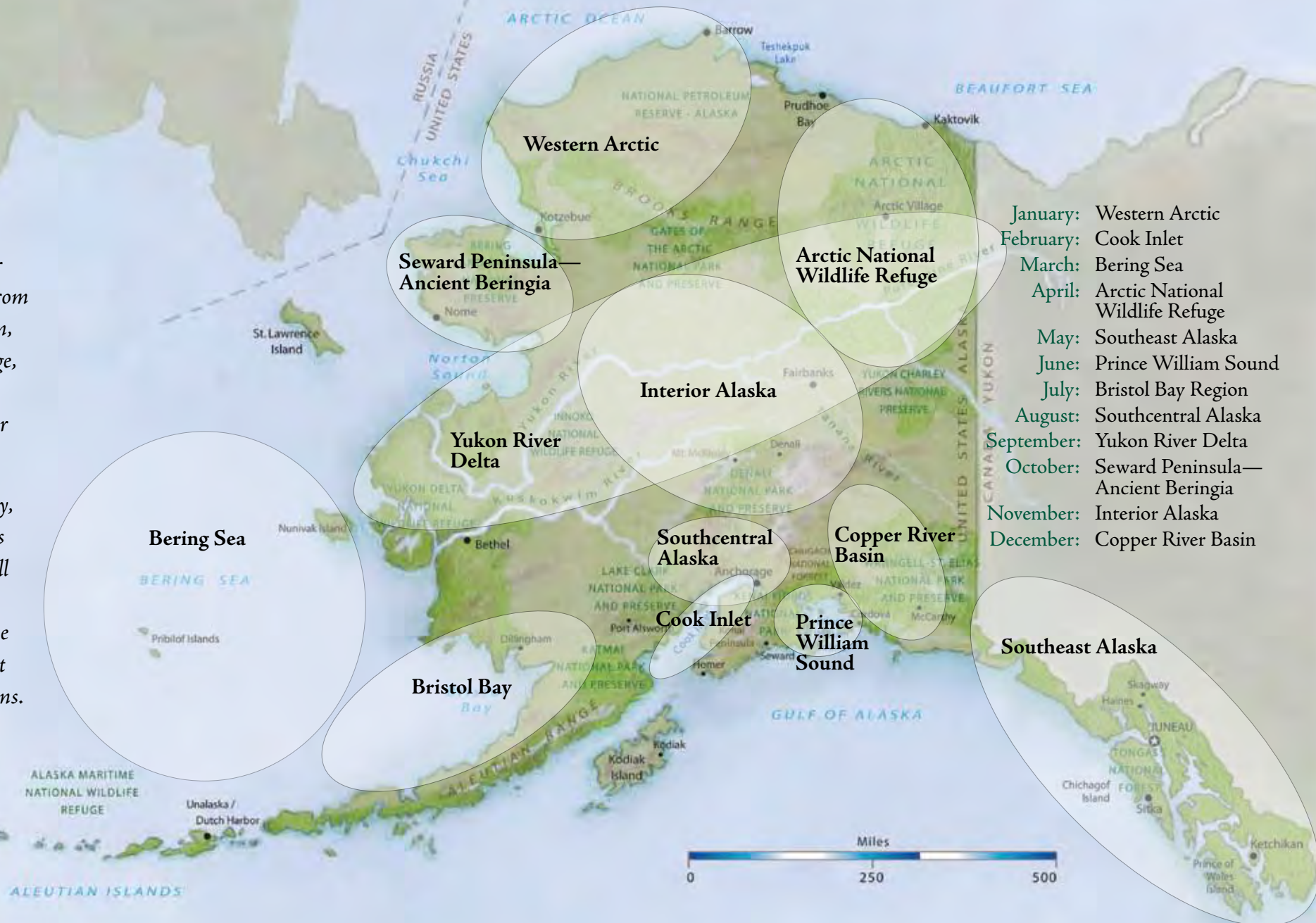


Sun-striped forest, Alaska's Lost Coast © Erin McKittrick, Ground Truth Trekking

A Conservation Journey Across Alaska in 12 Months

This map illustrates 12 regions of Alaska that are highlighted on our calendar pages. Each faces threats from various fronts—exploration, development, climate change, irresponsible road building, habitat destruction, or other human-generated causes.

Each is unique in its ecology, habitat, wildlife, indigenous cultures, and challenges. All are significant in ACF's conservation strategy for the survival of a healthy, robust Alaska for future generations.



Map illustration by Penny Panlener and Simon Goldstein



Western Arctic

Alaska Native empowerment to protect our global climate

The Western Arctic is considered by many to be the most remote and unspoiled area of the United States. It is also one of the most prolific breeding areas for migratory birds and raptors, including gyrfalcon (the largest species of falcon) and peregrines (the fastest animal on Earth). Polar bears roam the land and beluga whales swim the waters of this intact ecosystem.

Point Lay and Point Hope are Inupiat Eskimo villages that lie on the Chukchi Sea, in the farthest reaches of northwest Alaska. Residents of these isolated communities have relied on subsistence activities for sustenance as well as for their cultural survival for thousands of years.

Just south of these villages, plans are underway that could have catastrophic effects. Experts estimate that 4 trillion tons of coal lie beneath 30,000 square miles of Native, state, and federal lands in the Western Arctic. If developed, the Western Arctic Coal Project would be the largest in North America, with an infrastructure to export coal to Asian markets for generations to come. Meanwhile, local residents are witness to the tangible effects of rapid global warming that are unlike those taking place in any other state.


In fiscal year 2009, ACF provided grant support to Resisting Environmental Destruction on Indigenous Lands (REDOIL)—a group working to address impacts of the fossil fuel industry on Alaska Native sovereignty and self-determination, subsistence, human and ecological health, and climate change. At the request of the Inupiat of the Western Arctic, REDOIL provided a forum for the region's remote villages to learn about proposed fossil fuel and mining development in their traditional homelands.

ACF supports efforts to empower Alaska Native communities to speak out about prioritizing protection of subsistence resources above mineral and fossil fuel development. With our new Community Capacity program (page 28), we are working to facilitate balanced partnerships between Alaska Native groups and non-Native conservation organizations, realizing that such alliances are essential to preserving vital ecosystems and sustaining communities.

For more information about REDOIL, please visit www.inearth.org/redoil.

January 2010

Above: Polar bear on Arctic ice © Kim Heacox, 2000 Housberg Award Recipient.
Photo generously donated by Kim Heacox.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Year's Day	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Alaska Statehood Day (1959) Quadrantids meteor shower	10	11	12	13	14	15
			Birthday of Celia Hunter, co-founder of ACF			16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day					Coldest temperature recorded in Alaska, -80°F, Prospect Creek, 1971
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31					Tu B'Shavar begins at sunset	Tu B'Shavar ends at sunset

This page, top: Western Arctic forget-me-nots © Tim Leach

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Cook Inlet

A community unites to stop coal mining

Just 45 miles west of Anchorage, the unspoiled Chuitna River empties into Alaska's Cook Inlet. Accessible only by air or water, the Chuitna supports all five species of wild Pacific salmon, an abundance of wildlife, and the people who rely on it for sustenance. In 2007, however, the Chuitna appeared on the American Rivers list of Endangered Rivers for one imminent, alarming reason—the proposed Chuitna coal strip mine.

If fully developed, the mine would devastate up to 30 square miles of prime fish and game habitat. It would also install the infrastructure and establish markets for Cook Inlet coal exports for generations to come. Preventing development of the Chuitna coal mine represents a pivotal opportunity to combat global climate change by keeping Alaska's coal in the ground.

Multinational project developer PacRim Coal estimates the coal reserves at Chuitna to be about 300 million metric tons, and predicts initial production of up to 12 million metric tons annually. Once PacRim makes the necessary capital investments to develop its lease holdings and establishes and grows the markets for Chuitna coal, this facility would rank among the five largest coal mines in US history.

While the climate change implications of Chuitna are staggering, so too are the devastating precedents it would set for Alaska fish, game, and water quality management. The Chuitna coal strip mine would be the first project in Alaska history to mine directly through 11 miles of active salmon spawning habitat—a practice that has never before been allowed in this state.

While proponents insist they can “recreate” the salmon habitat once production ceases, experts cannot identify a single instance where a similar reclamation effort has succeeded. Additionally, the mine would dump over 3 billion gallons of mine waste and runoff into the salmon-rich Chuitna each year.



One of ACF's primary strategies is to empower local voices to ensure the healthy future of their communities—voices like the Chuitna Citizens No-COALition. ACF's investment in this small, effective grassroots movement has led to increased media attention and engagement of diverse groups in the ongoing struggle to keep Alaska's coal in the ground.

Read more about ACF's work regarding coal on page 31. Learn more about the proposed Chuitna coal mine at www.inletkeeper.org/energy.

February 2010

Above: Mt. Redoubt gives testament to Alaska's renewable energy potential, spring 2009 © Tom Collopy (www.wildnorthphoto.org)

Photo generously donated by Tom Collopy.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 ●	15	16	17	18	19	20
Valentine's Day Chinese New Year	Presidents' Day		Ash Wednesday			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 ☺						

Purim begins at sunset

This page, top: The Chuitna River © photo courtesy of Cook Inletkeeper

This page, bottom left: Terry Jorgensen of Chuitna No-COALition snags a red in the Chuitna River © Dennis Gann, Cook Inletkeeper

This page, bottom center: Cook Inlet and Mt. Susitna at sunset © Carl Johnson

This page, bottom right: Bob Shavelson of Cook Inletkeeper keeps an eye on the oil tanker Seabulk Arctic © photo courtesy of Cook Inletkeeper

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Bering Sea

Helping put an end to destructive fishing practices

Alaska's marine waters are a rich trove of sea life, particularly for subsistence and commercial fishermen. Off Alaska's western shores, the immense Bering Sea is home to fisheries that are often spoken of as "the best managed in the world." This lofty description is true in the sense that pollock species there are not overfished, but is completely misleading in an ecosystem context. While many of the world's waters are protected from destructive fishing practices, the Bering Sea is still subject to the devastating effects of bottom trawling.

Bottom trawling consists of towing a large fishing net across the ocean floor to catch groundfish, such as pollock. Dragging large nets often scrapes the sea bottom clean of critical plant life, essentially wiping out the ocean floor ecosystem. It also pulls in huge amounts of unintended catch such as herring, crab, salmon, and halibut that are simply discarded as "bycatch."

In June 2007 federal fishery managers agreed to a temporary northern bottom trawl boundary in the area. This boundary will help protect the Bering Sea, but only until the North Pacific Fishery Management Council writes a new plan in 2011. What happens between now and then is critical to the health of the Bering Sea, its inhabitants, and the people of the region who rely on the sea for their commerce and survival.

Two years ago, Alaska Native elders from eight tribes joined to form the Bering Sea Elders Advisory Group. Their plan was to provide traditional knowledge and guidance to the North Pacific fishery managers, with the goal of ensuring that the fishery management plan will protect the precious Bering Sea floor. The elders' group has grown to include 31 tribes, unified across a vast geographic area, including both the Yup'ik and Inupiat cultures.

ACF funded the group's initial meetings and provided operating support to help them continue their vital work. With the assistance of Alaska Marine Conservation Council, the Elders are now completing their study of Bering Sea subsistence, combining traditional and modern knowledge, scientific data, and mapping. It will be compiled in a proposal to the Fishery Council in the hope that common ground will be reached to protect both the sea and their way of life.

For more information on the Bering Sea Elders, visit www.beringseaelders.org. To learn more about Alaska Marine Conservation Council, visit www.akmarine.org.

March 2010

Above: Steller sea lion © Kim Heacox, 2000 Housberg Award Recipient.
Photo generously donated by Kim Heacox.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Purim ends at sunset	2	3 First Iditarod Sled Dog Race, 1973	4	5	6 Ceremonial start of 2010 Iditarod Sled Dog Race, Anchorage
7 Official start of 2010 Iditarod Sled Dog Race, Willow	8	9	10	11	12 Oil discovered at Prudhoe Bay, 1968	13
14 Daylight Saving Time begins	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Exxon Valdez oil tanker hits reef in Prince William Sound, 12:04 am, 1989, spilling 10.8 million gal. of crude oil	25	26	27 Good Friday earthquake, largest ever in N. America (RS 9.2), hits Anchorage, 1964
28 Palm Sunday	29 Seward's Day — Secretary of State Seward signs Alaska Purchase, 1867 Passover begins at sunset	30 	31			

This page, top left: Tufted puffin © Mike Boylan, US Fish & Wildlife Service

This page, bottom left: Bering Sea red king crab pod © National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

This page, bottom right: Bering Sea Elders Subsistence Working Group © Jeremy Potter, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Protecting the Sacred Place Where Life Begins

For centuries, the Gwich'in Nation in Alaska has inhabited and protected the Izhik Gwats'an Gwandaii Goodlit—the Sacred Place Where Life Begins. It is the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the birthplace and nursery grounds of the massive (around 123,000 strong) Porcupine Caribou herd, which has sustained their people for generations.

The region is beautiful and biologically diverse, and remains one of the world's most pristine wilderness areas. It is also home to large reserves of oil and gas that have been coveted by developers for decades.

In 1988, the leaders of the Gwich'in Nation in Alaska called the entire Gwich'in population together for a gathering—the first of its kind in more than 100 years. At this gathering they established the Gwich'in Steering Committee and the Gwich'in Niintsyaa, a resolution calling for the permanent prohibition of oil and gas development in the Refuge.

For more than 20 years, the Niintsyaa has held firm. The Refuge remains the last portion of Alaska's North Slope that is off limits to development. Each year, lawmakers and private interests continue their fight to change that prohibition. Yet the Gwich'in remain steadfast.

This year, with the assistance of an Opportunity Grant from ACF (see page 38), the Gwich'in Steering Committee held the "Celebration of Life and Land" to honor the Refuge and its wildlife. Supporters gathered in Arctic Village, a community of 155 people on the Chandalar River in northern interior Alaska, to celebrate 20 years of success, renew their resolve, and call for immediate action to deal with the effects of their latest challenge: climate change.




For three days, the attendees feasted, sang, danced, and rallied to raise awareness and gather support for permanent protection of the region. An inspiring aerial display of human art spelled out their mission in no uncertain terms: "SAVE THE ARCTIC."

The Gwich'in people have challenged world leaders to focus on science instead of politics in their discussions on climate change, and hope their message will be heard by decision-makers across the globe. ACF provides support to local voices, like the Gwich'in, across Alaska.

For more information on the Gwich'in Steering Committee, visit www.gwichinsteeringcommittee.org.

April 2010

Above: Caribou herd © Gregory Gusse (www.axua.com).
Photo generously donated by Gregory Gusse.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 April Fool's Day	2 Good Friday	3
4 Easter	5 Passover ends at sunset	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 ●	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 ☺ Lyrids meteor shower	29 Earth Day	30	
					National Arbor Day	

This page, top left: Braided river and scars © Elaine B. Rhode, US Fish & Wildlife Service

This page, top right: Oil rig © www.AlaskaStock.com

This page, bottom right: Wolf resting in front of his den © US Fish & Wildlife Service

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Southeast Alaska

An ACF intern returns to her hometown to work for sustainability

Sitka is a small island community in Alaska's famous Inside Passage, where livelihoods are still highly dependent on the natural environment. It is situated within the Tongass National Forest, the world's largest remaining temperate rainforest.

For over 40 years, ACF grantee Sitka Conservation Society (SCS) has been working to protect the lands and waters surrounding Sitka as well as helping the community chart a course toward social, economic, and environmental sustainability. In the summer of 2009, ACF-funded conservation intern Lexi Fish returned to her hometown of Sitka to help SCS facilitate the community's sustainability goals.

Their efforts are a study in proactive, local solutions to a complex global issue. Together with the City of Sitka and a diverse group of stakeholders—from road workers to environmentalists—SCS helped define goals for community renewable energy initiatives and carbon emission reductions.

Emphasis was placed on moving low-impact hydroelectric initiatives forward—projects that would significantly reduce Sitka's and surrounding communities' reliance on oil, while simultaneously ensuring they are the "right kind" of hydroelectric projects.



"Hydroelectric energy has a bad reputation," says Lexi. "Massive dam projects in the Lower 48 have destroyed critical salmon runs. In Southeast Alaska, we recognize salmon populations as the cornerstone of a healthy environment. We have a responsibility to create hydroelectric projects that provide clean electricity, reduce dependence on fossil fuels, and work to mitigate climate change impacts on a local level—yet won't harm the fish."

Aside from benefitting the community and economy, the work that SCS accomplished—thanks in part to the increased capacity provided by their ACF intern—has the potential to influence the development of renewable energy and hydroelectric policy across the state. It is a powerful solutions-based approach to climate change that started at a local level.

The ACF Conservation Internship Program places interns at grassroots organizations across Alaska each summer (see page 29), fostering career-building opportunities and future Alaska conservation leaders. For more information on the Sitka Conservation Society, visit www.sitkawild.org.

May 2010

Above: Above Behm Canal © Erin McKittrick, Ground Truth Trekking.
Photo generously donated by Erin McKittrick and Bretwood Higman.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		National Teachers' Day	Cinco de Mayo			
9	10	11	12	13	●	15
Mother's Day						Armed Forces Day
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		Shavou'ot begins at sunset	Shavou'ot ends at sunset			
23	24	25	26		28	29
Pentecost	Victoria Day (Canada)					
30	31					
	Memorial Day					

This page, top left: Anemones, Lynn Canal © Erin McKittrick, Ground Truth Trekking
This page, top right: Brown bear with pink salmon, Anan Creek © Anan Interpretive Staff, US Forest Service
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Prince William Sound

Creating enduring solutions to promote cleaner waters

The cruise ship industry has introduced millions of people to the majesty of Alaska and helped inspire many conservation supporters. It also provides much-needed jobs in areas that have long depended on extractive industry to support their economies. Unfortunately, the cruise ship industry is also highly polluting.

In 2006, Alaskans approved an important initiative that placed environmental regulations on the 26 cruise ships operating in state waters. These regulations required such vessels to obtain wastewater discharge permits, made ships subject to oversight and random testing, and prohibited discharge mixing zones.

A mixing zone is an area where toxic pollutants can be mixed by natural means with cleaner water to attain legal water quality limits. Cruise ship wastewater discharge in Alaska ranges up to nearly 300,000 gallons per day, and can damage water quality, habitat, and wildlife. The cruise ship industry was given until 2010 to comply—but instead lobbied strongly to undercut the legislation to allow for mixing zones.

Enter Prince William Soundkeeper (PWS), the small but powerful Alaska chapter of the national Waterkeeper Alliance water quality organization. PWS is all too familiar with how quickly a vibrant, healthy body of water can be destroyed. The Sound still bears devastating scars and irreparable damage from the 1989 *Exxon Valdez* oil spill.

With the help of an ACF Opportunity Grant, PWS set out to ignite grassroots support and to educate the public and Alaska's legislators on the impacts of cruise ship pollutants and the importance of not allowing mixing zones. They met with initiative co-sponsors in Juneau to plan strategy, and followed up with meetings, calls, and communications with Alaska Conservation Alliance (a statewide umbrella of over 40 Alaska conservation organizations representing 38,000 members) and United Fishermen of Alaska. Discussions were also held with cruise industry representatives.

The public responded enthusiastically with phone calls, emails, letters, and testimony. As a result, compromise legislation was passed (HB134) that stipulated increased standards, plus more time (2015) for industry to meet them. The strength of the landmark 2006 legislation was preserved.

For more information about Prince William Soundkeeper, visit www.pwsoundkeeper.org. You can read about ACF's Opportunity Grants on page 38.

June 2010

Above: Cascade © Mark Kelley, 2009 Housberg Award Recipient
Photo generously donated by Mark Kelley.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 World Environment Day
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Flag Day					Juneteenth
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 
Father's Day	Summer Solstice					
27 Hottest temperature recorded in Alaska, 100°F, Ft. Yukon, 1915	28	29	30			

This page, top left: Cruise ship, Alaska © SHDeem
This page, bottom right: Sea otter © Tom Collopy

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Bristol Bay Region

Stopping the mine to save the salmon

In southwest Alaska, just north of the Aleutian Islands, lies a remarkable body of water known as Bristol Bay. It is remarkable not only for its beauty, but also for the fact that despite its extremely high tides, remote location, powerful winds, and difficult navigability, it is the largest commercial source of wild sockeye salmon in the world. Tens of millions of salmon—red, king, silver, pink, and chum—move through the bay each year, heading inland to the region's watershed, where they return to their birthplace to spawn.

These salmon constitute the foundation of the region's economy, and are a primary source of sustenance for the Alaska Native communities in the area. Local residents have relied on the fish for their survival for centuries, and salmon populations have always been robust. If development plans for the region proceed, however, they may not remain so.

Pebble Mine, slated to be one of the world's largest open-pit gold and copper mines, is proposed for the heart of the Bristol Bay watershed. Billions of tons of raw ore are planned for excavation, and mine waste would be stored in two man-made tailings ponds enclosed by earthen dams (in an active earthquake zone), one of which would be 4.3 miles long and 740 feet high. Water consumption would surpass 34 billion gallons per year. Acid drainage could poison salmon populations beyond recovery.

To say that most residents of the region feel strongly about the mine would be an understatement. Nunamta Aulukestai (Yup'ik for "caretakers of the land") is a coalition of eight Bristol Bay village corporations that have joined forces to fight for the region's healthy future.

In April 2009, a delegation of Bristol Bay Alaska Native leaders and commercial fishermen flew to London to confront executives from Anglo American, the largest shareholder in the proposed mine, at the organization's annual general meeting. They also met with the president of international jeweler Tiffany & Co. UK, who joined other major jewelers in signing a pledge not to market gold mined from the Bristol Bay region.

"The entire world needs to know," says Nunamta spokesman Bobby Andrew, "that Anglo American's Pebble Mine would ruin the greatest wild salmon fishery left on Earth and the cultures that depend on it."



ACF is fiscal sponsor of Nunamta Aulukestai and of efforts to protect Bristol Bay from this threat. We work with Alaska Natives, commercial fishermen, sportsmen's organizations, and environmental groups to raise local and global awareness. Read more about our Bristol Bay program on page 30.

July 2010

Above: "Red Monster"—Sockeye salmon from Hanson Creek, Lake Aleknagik, Bristol Bay

© Nick Hall Photography (www.nickhallphotography.com).

Photo generously donated by Nick Hall, from his book *Seasons of Sustainability: Native Life in Bristol Bay*.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Canada Day	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Independence Day ●	Independence Day (observed)		Congress approves Alaska Statehood Act, 1958			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			Bastille Day			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
					Chugach National Forest established, 1907	
25 ☺	26	27	28	29	30	31

This page, top center: Exploration rig, Pebble Valley, Bristol Bay © Erin McKittrick, Ground Truth Trekking

This page, top left: Stop Pebble Mine Rally at Dillingham © Matt Davidson

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Southcentral Alaska

Promoting clean, affordable energy for a booming population

The bountiful Matanuska-Susitna Valley in Southcentral Alaska is considered the state's breadbasket. Known worldwide for its giant vegetables, enhanced by the extended summer sunshine, it is not unusual to see a farm set amid 5,000-foot, snowcapped mountains. The "Valley" is also far and away the fastest growing area in Alaska, with a population increase of more than 400% since 1990.

In an effort to meet the burgeoning energy demands of its increasing membership, Matanuska Electric Association (MEA) proposed building a new coal-fired power plant. Local opposition responded decisively—in the form of the MEA Ratepayer's Alliance, a grassroots group of MEA members who believe that electricity should be affordable without sacrificing environmental integrity.

Alliance members recognized that the region also has outstanding renewable energy opportunities that include wind, tidal, and geothermal—opportunities that would be shelved for decades if the new, highly polluting coal plant were built.


Although the Alliance is relatively young, the group has been highly effective at getting the voice of the ratepayers heard above the din. Their advocacy resulted in passage of a power plant ordinance that blocked construction of the coal-fired plant. When MEA responded by introducing a ballot initiative seeking to overturn the ordinance, the Alliance prevailed again. Their message was loud and clear: Coal is not the answer to the Valley's energy needs. Their work is cut out for them, as three other coal mines are proposed for the Mat-Su Valley—Wishbone Hill, Jonesville, and Castle Mountain.

But the Ratepayer's Alliance also knows it is unwise to oppose something without providing alternatives. To that end, they continue to work on increasing public awareness about Alaska's myriad renewable energy sources and long-term energy planning and energy efficiency. They also advocate electing board members who are friendly to long-term planning, alternative energy projects, and co-op bylaws reform.

ACF support of MEA Ratepayer's Alliance was provided in the form of grant funding under our Energy and Climate program (page 31). Supporting clean alternatives to coal and the local voices who know what their communities need is a winning strategy that serves the Valley—and Alaska—now and in the future.

August 2010

Above: *Fall in the Chugach Mountains* © Carl Battreall, 2007 Housberg Award Recipient.
Photo generously donated by Carl Battreall.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Friendship Day	8	9	10	11	12	13
	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	Ramadan begins at sunset		Perseids meteor shower		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
			Mt. Spurr erupts, 1992			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	 			

This page, bottom left: *Sunset on Lake Hood* © www.AlaskaStock.com
This page, bottom right: *Red-necked grebes* © Donna Dewhurst, US Fish & Wildlife Service

ALASKA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
www.alaskaconservation.org



Yukon River Delta

A coalition of communities reclaims Alaska's magnificent Yukon River

The legendary Yukon River is one of North America's longest rivers, coursing 1,980 miles across Canada and Alaska. Its extensive watershed—around 330,000 square miles, about twice the size of California—supports the world's largest, longest inland run of wild Pacific salmon. This majestic river traverses and sustains a multitude of habitats, communities, and cultures.

Yet no degree of majesty can overcome more than a century of neglect and abuse. Most of the region's remote communities are accessible only by air or water, and thus lack the infrastructure that would facilitate the removal of discarded items such as junked vehicles, used oil and antifreeze, microwaves, televisions, car batteries, and refrigerators. Many have been dumped into the Yukon River and its tributaries, where they degrade and release toxins that threaten the ecosystem, the wildlife, and the people.

The Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council (YRITWC) is a coalition of 66 Tribes and First Nations in Alaska and Canada who work to protect the health of the river, the region's communities, and the animals on which they rely. YRITWC was founded in 1997 when Chiefs and elders gathered to discuss the alarming increase in cancers and other health problems among the people and animals in the watershed.

In 2004, YRITWC established their Backhaul Program to address the solid waste issues plaguing the watershed. Backhaul involves transporting old materials out to be properly disposed of or recycled after new ones are brought in. It protects communities against contamination, cuts the cost of waste management, and prolongs the life of necessary landfill areas.



The program has processed more than 10 million pounds of solid waste material, and has also helped communities around Alaska and in Russia and Greenland deal with similar issues. By 2008, YRITWC also established an antifreeze recycling center. Trainings in waste management, Freon removal, and other disciplines were begun.

ACF recognizes that a strong conservation movement must begin with healthy, empowered people, which is why we provided Operating Support (see page 36) to help sustain the critical efforts of YRITWC in fiscal year 2009. Their multifaceted work, which includes community organizing, mining concerns, land exchange, renewable energy, waste management, capacity building, and more, is vital to the health and well-being of the vast Yukon River watershed and all who rely upon it.

For more information about the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council, visit www.yritwc.org.

September 2010

Above: Sunset at the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge © US Fish & Wildlife Service.
Photo courtesy of the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	● 8	9	10	11
	Labor Day		Rosh HaShanah begins at sunset	Ramadan ends at sunset	Tongass National Forest established, 1907 Rosh HaShanah ends at sunset	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Grandparents' Day					Yom Kippur begins at sunset	Yom Kippur ends at sunset
19	20	21	22	☺ 23	24	25
		International Day of Peace	Autumnal Equinox Sukkot begins at sunset		Native American Day	
26	27	28	29	30		
			Sukkot ends at sunset			

This page, top left: Navigating the Yukon River © Matt Hage, Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council
This page, bottom right: Salmon drying near the river © Jon Waterhouse, Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council

ALASKA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
www.alaskaconservation.org



Seward Peninsula—Ancient Beringia

Subsistence lifestyles become increasingly toxic

Off the western coast of Alaska near the Bering Strait lies the Seward Peninsula, a magnificent region of volcanic lakes and hot springs, mountains, tundra, and salmon-rich rivers. It is home to many of the world's largest land mammals—caribou, moose, musk ox, bears, and wolves, as well as Indigenous cultures that have survived on the region's bounty for millennia.

Unfortunately, much of the region is tainted with powerful chemicals that are rendering its natural resources toxic to those who depend on them. These chemicals include cyanide from more than a century of mining activity—activity that continues today at the Rock Creek Mine, an immense open-pit cyanide heap-leach mine near Nome.

Also causing problems are the toxic leftovers from old military facilities built during World War II and the Cold War. Some of these chemicals can have devastating long-term effects on plants, animals, and humans.

Aided by Operating Support and an internship grant from ACF, Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT) has been working with Indigenous villages in the region, assisting those suffering from health problems linked to contaminants.

ACAT scientists and faculty from universities in Alaska, California, and New York provided a 3-day training program during which 24 tribal leaders and activists from 9 villages learned about research, environmental sampling, and mapping that will enable them to conduct community-based assessments to detect and address toxic chemical problems.



Through her host organization (ACAT), ACF Intern Samarys Seguinot-Medina helped plan and implement the program, and conducted field research on the environmental and health effects of toxics for a report to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

ACAT's ultimate goal is to eliminate environmental contaminants that affect the Indigenous peoples of Alaska. "The full extent of pollution caused by the mining industry in Alaska is important for us to know," says Pam Miller, executive director of ACAT, "so that we can protect the people living nearby and the natural resources surrounding our mine sites."

ACF's support builds vital capacity for organizations that help provide Native communities with the information they need to fight for a healthier future. For more information on Alaska Community Action on Toxics, visit www.akaction.org. Learn more about our Operating Support Grants and Internship Program on pages 36 and 29.

October 2010

Above: Serpentine Hot Springs, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve © Gregory Gusse (www.axua.com).
Photo generously donated by Gregory Gusse.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Columbus Day Thanksgiving (Canada)					
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Alaska Day (Alaska transferred from Russia to US, 1867)			Orionids meteor shower		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
Halloween						

This page, top left: Musk ox and calf © Tom Collopy

This page, top right: Wildflowers and caribou antler, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve © Kaci Fullwood, National Park Service

ALASKA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
www.alaskaconservation.org



Interior Alaska

Helping key grassroots organizations remain strong

If you were to ask an Alaskan to describe Interior Alaska, they might say it is a land of extremes—record lows of 60 below zero, and highs in the 90s. There are 22 hours of daylight at the peak of summer—and the opposite in the winter. Breathtakingly beautiful, the Interior can also be a harsh environment. Yet people and wildlife have survived and thrived here for millennia.

Like the rest of resource-laden Alaska, the region has its economic and environmental challenges. From the gold rush days of a century ago to today's coal, gas, oil, and mineral development, the push for resource extraction and risks to environmental health continue. Several conservation groups work to protect this region, including the Northern Alaska Environmental Center (NAEC).

For over 35 years, NAEC has filled a leading role in conservation efforts in the Interior. A small, expert staff works diligently to focus on four major programs: the Arctic, clean water and mines, local issues and energy, and a youth summer camp. But when its director left last year just before the nation's economic downturn, the Northern Center faced financial as well as leadership challenges. They turned to ACF for help.

Recognizing that this was a critical transition period for a vital organization in Alaska's grassroots movement, ACF awarded grants to help with the transition. (See page 28 to find out more about our Community Capacity work.)

Our first grant was to support recruitment for a new director. We also helped provide NAEC trustees with executive director compensation data, and funded salary support to ensure that a competitive compensation package could be offered. And when their new executive director, Karen Max Kelly, arrived on the job, ACF provided a grant to fund financial analysis and accounting support to aid NAEC with its budgetary planning.






Karen Kelly is now busily at the helm of the Northern Center, leading an outstanding staff.

"ACF's Community Capacity Program bolstered the Northern Alaska Environmental Center during a recent leadership transition and helped us undertake a financial review process," says Kelly. "As a new Executive Director, I appreciate the opportunities ACF provides to promote efficacy and professionalism in our organization and the conservation community."

To read more about the Northern Center and its successful efforts to protect Interior Alaska, visit www.northern.org.

November 2010

Above: Mt. McKinley, Denali National Park © Mark Kelley, 2009 Housberg Award Recipient.
Photo generously donated by Mark Kelley.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 All Saints' Day	2 Election Day All Souls' Day	3	4	5 Guy Fawkes Night	6 
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Daylight Saving Time ends				Veterans' Day		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
			Leonids meteor shower			
 21	22	23	24	25	26	27
				Thanksgiving Day		
28	29	30				

This page, top left: Spruce grouse in cover, Gates of the Arctic National Park © Carl Johnson
This page, bottom left: Koyukuk River © Bill Raften, US Fish & Wildlife Service
This page, bottom right: Red fox © Chris Russoniello, National Park Service

ALASKA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
www.alaskaconservation.org



Copper River Basin

Citizens' council unites to prevent pipeline spills

Flanked by the Chugach Mountains to the west and the Wrangell Mountains to the east, the biologically rich Copper River basin in Southcentral Alaska extends into the Gulf of Alaska at the southern reaches of Prince William Sound. The Copper River is world famous for its extraordinary runs of wild red salmon. The region is also a critical stopover for millions of migratory birds on their way to their Arctic nesting grounds.

Many do not realize that the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, which starts 800 miles north on Alaska's North Slope, crisscrosses a number of major tributaries of the Copper River on its southward span to the port at Valdez. An uncontained leak in the pipeline could wipe out one of the world's greatest salmon fisheries. Case in point: in 2001, a single gunshot caused a leak about 75 miles north of Fairbanks that resulted in 258,000 gallons of oil spilling onto the tundra.

Adding injury to insult, the basin *also* happens to be the most seismically active section of the pipeline's path. Fortunately, local grassroots organizations are intently focused on protecting the health and integrity of the Copper River.

March 24, 2009 marked the 20th anniversary of the disastrous *Exxon Valdez* oil spill (EVOS) in Prince William Sound. Two weeks prior to this heartbreaking milestone, citizens from around the Copper River watershed assembled in Valdez to create a citizens' oversight council for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. The group included people directly affected by the spill and others from along the pipeline who understand the possibility of such a spill in their own communities.

Convened and facilitated by ACF grantees Copper River Watershed Project and Cascadia Wildlands Project, the goal of the gathering was to empower citizens to identify concerns about the lack of pipeline maintenance and oversight—especially with regard to spill response—and to discuss possible solutions. This is part of a larger strategic effort to ensure that another tragedy like EVOS does not occur.

In FY2009, ACF provided operating funds (see page 36) to Copper River Watershed Project and an Opportunity Grant (see page 38) to Cascadia Wildlands Project to support their facilitation of this important meeting. ACF believes that the power of local citizens coming together is an essential part of the solution to complex environmental challenges.

For more information on the Copper River Watershed Project, visit www.copperriver.org. To learn about the Cascadia Wildlands project, visit www.cascwild.org.

December 2010

Above: Aurora borealis © Tom Collopy, www.wildnorthphoto.com.
Photo generously donated by Tom Collopy.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Hanukkah begins at sunset	2 President Carter signs Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act into law, 1980	3	4
5 	6	7	8	9 Hanukkah ends at sunset	10	11
12	13 Geminids meteor shower	14	15 Day of Ashura begins at sunset	16 Day of Ashura ends at sunset	17	18 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, 1971
19	20	21  Winter Solstice	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day
26 Kwanzaa begins	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	

This page, top left: Mt. Sanford, the Wrangell Mountains, and the frozen Copper River © Carl Johnson
This page, bottom right: The Trans-Alaska Pipeline © www.AlaskaStock.com

ALASKA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
www.alaskaconservation.org

Our Program Work

Community Capacity—\$20,900 awarded

The Alaska conservation community is facing tremendous change and significant threats. The economic downturn, combined with the highest number of leadership transitions in years, poses immense challenges to Alaska's grassroots movement. Global demand for Alaska's natural resources—coal, gold, copper, oil, and gas—has spiked substantially in the past few years, placing extreme pressure on conservation organizations to remain strong and vigilant. At the same time, Alaska has been seriously affected by changes in political leadership at the state and federal levels.

These different sets of circumstances have come together to create a new reality for the Alaska conservation movement. To survive in this time of transition, organizations must develop a responsive vision and explore different ways of “doing the work.” While a renewed vision will provide a roadmap for strategic coordination and connection, the community itself must have the capacity to carry out the work. To thrive into the future, leaders and organizations alike need appropriate resources and training.

ACF's Community Capacity program will aid conservation organizations as they navigate the new economy, and will offer strategic resources and support to sustain leaders and strengthen the overall movement.

ACF's “All for One” study from 2008, combined with similar reports conducted by partner foundations and capacity builders as well as interviews throughout the conservation community, will guide our approach. Tapping expertise in Alaska and beyond, ACF will incorporate a combination of strategies, including:

- Technical assistance and support to stabilize organizational operations;
- Training for staff and boards to enhance effectiveness and efficiency;
- Distribution of best practices, innovations, and relevant research to keep organizations on the cutting edge;
- Transitional funding to support groups during times of leadership turnover; and
- Community dialogue/strategic discussions on vision, coordination, and collaboration.

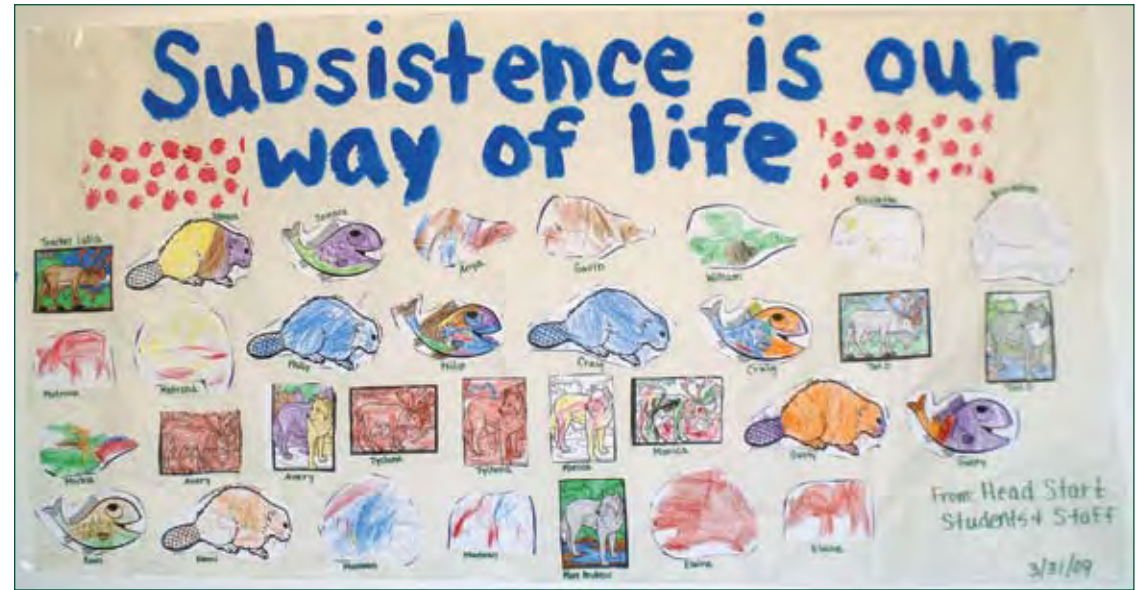
Conservation “wins” are one way of measuring the overall impact of the movement. Only through a base of skilled and supported leaders, effective organizations, and strong, diverse inter-organizational networks working together can Alaska achieve long-lasting protection of its wild lands, waters, and wildlife.

Alaska Center for the Environment
Anchorage, AK • \$5,400
Executive Leadership Training

Northern Alaska Environmental Center
Fairbanks, AK • \$10,000
Executive Leadership Support

Trustees for Alaska
Anchorage, AK • \$2,000
Executive Search Support

Northern Alaska Environmental Center
Fairbanks, AK • \$3,500
Executive Director Transition



The title says it all. Thank you to the children of New Stuyahok for sharing their artwork.

Indigenous Empowerment

Alaska is home to 231 federally recognized Indigenous tribes and a population of 107,000 Alaska Natives, nearly 60 percent of who live in isolated rural communities accessible only by air and/or water. These communities have mixed subsistence-market economies: residents spend time hunting, fishing, and gathering food for physical and cultural survival, and these activities are supplemented with cash income. Subsistence activities are essential to the economic and social fabric of Alaska Native communities.

Because of their profound reliance upon—and connection with—the environment, Alaska Native communities are now disproportionately affected by the threats of global warming, skyrocketing energy prices, and unsustainable development. However, only a small percentage of funds for Indigenous peoples and environmental causes are allocated directly to Alaska Native and Indigenous organizations. Of the \$853 million in corporate and foundation grants awarded in the Pacific Northwest states in 2006, less than \$1 million was awarded to Native groups for conservation efforts—and only a small fraction of this went to Alaska Native groups. Our current economic reality requires even greater focus on building capacity in Indigenous communities, and Alaska is ground zero for these efforts.

In the past year, ACF has provided funding support to Alaska Native organizations working on water conservation (Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council), advocacy on resource development (Gwich'in Steering Committee, Resisting Environmental Destruction on Indigenous Lands, Nunamta Aulukestai), and global warming.

In an effort to strengthen support of and relationships with Alaska Native organizations working to sustain their environment and communities, ACF is hosting the Alaska Seminar on Private Philanthropy, Indigenous Capacity, and Environmental Stewardship in September 2009. We are co-sponsoring this event with Oak Foundation, International Funders for Indigenous Peoples, and Native Americans in Philanthropy, with additional support from the 7th Generation Fund for Indian Development.

Conservation Internship Program—More than \$88,600 awarded

ACF's Conservation Internship Program works toward developing the next generation of conservation leaders, attracting highly qualified undergraduate and graduate students from within the state and around the country. Since its inception, this program has connected dozens of outstanding young leaders to conservation issues and organizations in Alaska.

During 2009, ACF provided funding for 20 internships at conservation organizations throughout the state. Their projects spanned a broad array of pressing issues, including forest and wildlands protection, renewable energy advocacy, climate change research, environmental education, and more.

Each Conservation Internship Program assignment is created to help preserve and protect our pristine environment, allowing students to gain practical job skills in the conservation field, add capacity that will enable host organizations to meet their conservation goals, learn firsthand about our magnificent natural environment and diverse cultures, and acquire the leadership and professional skills needed to sustain the conservation movement.

The ACF Conservation Internship Program is a necessity for the future of the state's exceptional wilderness. We strive to develop a pool of educated and energetic young leaders who will manage conservation programs and inspire the nation to protect a biologically diverse and wild Alaska forever. ACF works to foster their continued interest and professional development toward these ends.

ACF's conservation interns are truly an investment in Alaska. If you would like information on sponsoring a conservation internship, please email Danielle S. Williams at dswilliams@alaskaconservation.org or call 907-276-1917.

ACF 2009 Conservation Interns take a hike after their orientation © Nicole Hampsten, 2009 Conservation Intern



Alaska Center for the Environment
Anchorage, AK • Sara Rafalson

Alaska Community Action on Toxics
Anchorage, AK • Samarys Seguinot-Medina

Alaska Conservation Alliance
Anchorage, AK • Laura Silverman

Alaska Conservation Foundation (Alaska Coal Working Group)
Anchorage, AK • Marty Schnure

Alaska Marine Conservation Council
Anchorage, AK • Julia Beatty

Alaska Youth for Environmental Action
Anchorage, AK • Samantha Hoeffler

Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies, Inc.
Homer, AK • Jessica Pollock

Cook Inletkeeper
Homer, AK • Liza Mitchell

Discovery Southeast
Juneau, AK • Nicole Hampsten

Great Land Trust
Anchorage, AK • Katherine Teale

Juneau Watershed Project
Juneau, AK • Lia Mastropolo

Northern Alaska Environmental Center
Fairbanks, AK • Jenna Hertz

Renewable Energy Alaska Project
Anchorage, AK • Nora Gecan

Sitka Conservation Society
Sitka, AK • Lexi Fish

Southeast Alaska Conservation Council
Juneau, AK • April Christensen

Taiya Inlet Watershed Council
Skagway, AK • Samantha Buechner

Takshanuk Watershed Council
Haines, AK • Tyler Stuart

US Fish & Wildlife Service
Anchorage, AK • Theresa Spang

Yakutat Salmon Board
Yakutat, AK • Nicole Jones

Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council
Anchorage, AK • Alanna Purdy



Taiya Inlet Watershed Council intern Samantha Buechner cleans fish at the salmon derby in Skagway © Courtesy Sam Buechner

Strategies for Alaska's Future—\$95,779 awarded

ACF's Strategies for Alaska's Future effort helps direct the conservation-related work of the Alaska Legislature toward positive outcomes. Its goal is to bring the conservation community together to identify shared priorities, thwart bills that may be destructive to those priorities, and pass progressive legislation that moves Alaska toward a vibrant, more sustainable future. The Strategies effort spurs the grassroots into action and ensures critical coordination within the conservation community. Speaking with a unified voice strengthens the movement and helps broaden the base of support for conservation in Alaska.

FY 2009 was the first year of a two-year session during which the legislature has said they will tackle long-term energy planning. The Strategies priorities were threefold:

- The creation of an Emerging Energy Technology Fund to help spur energy investment and innovation in Alaska;
- The creation of an Alaska Energy Savings Center, where all state weatherization and efficiency programs would be brought under one roof; and
- A transportation infrastructure appropriation that would improve public transportation in Southcentral Alaska.

The second year of the session begins in January 2010 and bills are in play for all of these priorities. During the interim, the legislature has increased its commitment to addressing long-term energy planning. Hearings are taking place across Alaska to weigh in on the creation of an Alaska Department of Energy, consolidation of the six Railbelt utilities, and more.

Alaska Center for the Environment
Anchorage, AK • \$32,500
Grassroots Organizing

Alaska Conservation Alliance
Anchorage, AK • \$25,500
Coordination Efforts

Northern Alaska Environmental Center
Fairbanks, AK • \$22,779
Grassroots Organizing

Southeast Alaska Conservation Council
Juneau, AK • \$15,000
Grassroots Organizing



Raven in spruce © Carl Johnson

Center for Science in Public Participation

Bozeman, MT • \$130,000
Technical Support

Nunamta Aulukestai

Dillingham, AK • \$631,383
Bristol Bay Protection Campaign—
Building Regional Support and
Organizational Capacity

Resource Media

San Francisco, CA • \$100,626
Media Support

Trustees for Alaska

Anchorage, AK • \$90,000
Legal Services

Bristol Bay— \$952,009 awarded

The Bristol Bay region in southwest Alaska is a pristine wilderness stretching from the rugged, snow-capped peaks of the Alaska Range across tundra and wetlands laced with rivers that flow into the bay, providing the best wild salmon habitat anywhere on Earth.

Millions of salmon return to spawn in the bay's drainages each year, making it the richest commercial wild salmon fishery in the world. In addition to sockeye, there are stunning runs of king salmon plus world-class rainbow trout and an array of Arctic wildlife from caribou and ptarmigan to moose, wolves, and grizzlies, which local residents suggest outnumber them 2 to 1. More than anything else, Bristol Bay is about salmon, on which everything—communities, jobs, and the health of the entire ecosystem—depends. Salmon support thriving commercial and sport fishing industries as well as traditional subsistence ways of life.

Yet plans for large-scale mineral development, such as the Pebble gold and copper mine in the headwaters of the bay's best wild salmon rivers, could change the region forever. The Pebble Mine would be the largest open-pit mine in North America. Owners hope to excavate billions of tons of raw ore, primarily seeking significant quantities of copper, gold, and molybdenum. The foreign mining companies that formed a partnership to develop the mine—the Pebble Partnership—hold lease on about 153 square miles of undisturbed lands. Mining operations, once begun, could cover over 30 square miles, including tailings ponds. If developed, mining operations could continue for a century or more. The Pebble Partnership is currently in the exploratory phase of the project and has not yet filed for specific federal and state permits needed to develop the mine.

The effort to stop development of the Pebble Mine is part of a larger campaign to protect the Bristol Bay watershed. The groups and individuals participating in this campaign include commercial fishermen and fish processors, sport fishermen, sport hunters and sportfishing lodges, tourism operators, conservation groups, and Alaska Native tribes and villages that depend on the fish and wildlife of the region for subsistence. They have formed a "Bristol Bay Working Group," whose mission is "to increase the effectiveness of individual member groups and the collective impact of their efforts to preserve the biological integrity and productivity of Bristol Bay's renewable resources and the human activities and subsistence way of life they support." ACF is acting as fiscal sponsor for Nunamta Aulukestai (see page 17) and for the working group's Bristol Bay Protection Campaign, managing grant funds for coordinating the campaign and funding the scientific, legal, and media components of the effort to stop development of the Pebble Mine.



Making a Local Issue Global—Representatives of ACF grantee Nunamta Aulukestai Everett Thompson, Lydia Olympic, Bobby Andrew, and Thomas Tilden visit London to bring their message to the annual meeting of Anglo American the multinational corporation planning development of the Pebble Mine © Harlin Savage, Resource Media

Energy and Climate— \$874,226 awarded

Alaska is feeling the impacts of climate change. Glaciers are melting. Salmon streams are warming, jeopardizing world-class populations. Massive bark beetle infestations have devastated forests. Melting permafrost is disrupting human life, forcing Native villages to relocate or tumble into the sea. Most alarming from a climatic standpoint, sea ice in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas is shrinking, which could speed the rate of global climate change. Political and industrial leaders, however, are touting Alaska's vast coal reserves as a viable path toward "energy independence," with the prospect of jobs and revenues from domestic and export markets alike.

Coal is the dirtiest of fossil fuels and a major contributor to the greenhouse gas pollution responsible for climate change. Alaska's coal deposits are massive, representing roughly half the total reserves in the United States and one-eighth of total global reserves. At present, Alaska has just one family-owned coal mine that has been in operation since the 1940s, and less than 10 percent of the state's power is generated from coal (compared to 50-60 percent in the Lower 48). While the coal industry has yet to gain a significant foothold in Alaska, rapidly expanding Asian markets coupled with skyrocketing energy prices are making coal mining and usage increasingly attractive. Presently, large mining projects are being proposed in Southcentral Alaska and in the Western Arctic, where up to one-ninth of the world's bituminous coal lays undisturbed.

At the same time, Alaska holds an unparalleled wealth of renewable energy. The state has incredible proven reserves of wind, geothermal energy, tidal power, wave power, and other potential sources of clean energy. Combined with a small population and a strong perception and history of being an energy state, Alaska can serve as the center for research and development of these important energy sources, meeting power needs while reducing pressures on Alaska's wild lands and setting an example of renewable energy utilization for the rest of the country.

Bringing both aspects of this two-pronged approach together, ACF helped create, convene, and financially support two coalition efforts: the Alaska Coal Working Group to oppose coal development, and the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Committee to implement energy solutions. These critical statewide efforts are working to address the threat of climate change and seize the opportunity to transition Alaska away from fossil fuel production. In the coming year, ACF and our partners will continue to seek the solutions of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and energy planning as a means to keep Alaska's immense coal reserves in the ground.

Alaska Center for the Environment
Anchorage, AK • \$20,000
Alaska Coal Workshop Series

Alaska Conservation Alliance
Anchorage, AK • \$39,000
Alaska Coal Working Group
Support Services

Alaska Conservation Alliance
Anchorage, AK • \$75,000
Polling and Focus Groups—Coal
and Energy

Alaska Conservation Alliance
Anchorage, AK • \$500
Fall Alaska Dialogue on Energy

Alaska Conservation Alliance
Anchorage, AK • \$15,000
Legislative Fly-In—Alaska Coal
Working Group

Alaska Conservation Alliance
Anchorage, AK • \$14,000
Utility Co-op Organizing

Alaska Conservation Alliance
Anchorage, AK • \$90,000
Statewide Energy Coordinator

Alaska Conservation Alliance
Anchorage, AK • \$15,000
Coal Communications

**Alaska Youth for Environmental
Action**
Anchorage, AK • \$2,500
Civics and Conservation Summit—
Renewable Energy

**Center for Science in Public
Participation**
Bozeman, MT • \$40,000
Technical Support—Alaska Coal
Working Group

Chugach Reliability Group, LLC
Anchorage, AK • \$8,000
Chugach Electric Association
Outreach

Chuitna Citizens NO-COALition
Beluga, AK • \$15,000
Grassroots Organizing—Chuitna
Mine

Cook Inletkeeper
Homer, AK • \$10,000
Legislative Organizer—Coal

EARTHWORKS
Washington, DC • \$50,000
Chuitna Corporate Pressure
Campaign

Dan Fitzgerald
Haines, AK • \$25,000
Regulatory Commission of Alaska
Study



Coal seams in the Western Arctic © Damian Brook Kintz

Ground Truth Trekking
Seldovia, AK • \$10,000
Alaska Coal Website

**Homer Electric Association
Members Forum**
Homer, AK • \$10,000
HEA Outreach

**Indigenous Education Network of
Turtle Island—REDOIL**
Bemidji, MN • \$10,000
Western Arctic Regional Coal
Workshop

**Matanuska Electric Association
Ratepayer's Alliance**
Palmer, AK • \$6,000
Protecting the Valley Power Plant
Ordinance

**Matanuska Electric Association
Ratepayer's Alliance**
Palmer, AK • \$500
Fall Alaska Dialogue on Energy

**Matanuska Electric Association
Ratepayer's Alliance**
Palmer, AK • \$15,000
Utility Co-op Organizing

**Matanuska Electric Association
Ratepayer's Alliance**
Palmer, AK • \$8,000
MEA Outreach

National Wildlife Federation
Anchorage, AK • \$2,000
Youth Attendance, Powershift 2009

**Northern Alaska Environmental
Center**
Fairbanks, AK • \$11,000
Hatch Report Analysis

**Northern Alaska Environmental
Center**
Fairbanks, AK • \$104,630
Interior Coal Organizer

Native Village of Point Hope
Point Hope, AK • \$3,896
Participation in Alaska Coal
Working Group Annual Meeting

Renewable Energy Alaska Project
Anchorage, AK • \$12,500
Business of Renewable Energy
Conference

Renewable Energy Alaska Project
Anchorage, AK • \$15,000
Renewable Energy and Energy
Efficiency Advocacy

Resource Media
San Francisco, CA • \$50,000
Media Support

Trustees for Alaska
Anchorage, AK • \$196,700
Legal Support—Alaska Coal
Working Group



Forest hikers © Stacy Stubbaker

Rainforest Conservation—\$50,000 awarded

ACF is continuing to provide expertise on Alaska rainforest issues through its partnership with seven conservation organizations working together as the Tongass Conservation Collaborative (TCC). The primary focus of the TCC is to move the conservation agenda in Southeast Alaska toward a community-supported, solutions-based future. The TCC includes ACF, Alaska Wilderness League, Audubon Alaska, the Nature Conservancy, the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, Sitka Conservation Society, Trout Unlimited, and The Wilderness Society.

The core of this future vision for conservationists is permanent protection, through legislation, for areas containing the highest biological and community values in the Tongass. ACF provides leadership and coordination for the organizations in the campaign, and facilitates communication and collaboration among the groups for strategy development and implementation of the campaign work plan.

The goals of the Tongass Conservation Collaborative are:

- Gain permanent protection for the lands most important for salmon, wildlife, and sustainable use by local communities;
- Provide opportunities for a healthy and sustainable woods products industry;
- Support a forest restoration and enhancement program that improves salmon and wildlife habitat and provides jobs; and
- Promote a positive conservation ethic that is supported by a majority of people in the region.

ACF and our TCC partners are focused on collaborative efforts working with community leaders, timber operators, commercial fishermen, the US Forest Service, the State of Alaska (Forestry Division), and others to shift the debate around timber in the region toward positive solutions. ACF has coordinated and participated in a series of stakeholder meetings to identify the general concepts that need to be included in a legislative solution. We have also continued our work in the Tongass Futures Roundtable and in communities, developing new relationships among diverse stakeholders and building support for additional land protections in the Tongass.

Resource Media
San Francisco, CA • \$50,000
Tongass Focus Groups

Hard Rock Mining

Alaska is experiencing a tremendous surge in demand for its mineral resources as a result of the exponential rise in mineral prices on the world market. As a result, multinational corporations are proposing industrial-scale mining projects throughout the state, each of which will cover several thousand acres.

Such mining activities could have significant, long-term impacts on water quality, air quality, and productivity of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems that extend far beyond the mined area—impacts that will continue long after mining activities have ended. These include altered landscapes, extremely low soil and water pH, changes in slope of land and rates of erosion, abandoned mine tailings, alterations in groundwater regimes, contaminated soil and water, and significant changes in plants. The environmental and social impacts of the industrial-scale mines proposed for Alaska will bring dramatic change to the character of Alaska's lands and to Alaskans' ways of life.

In fiscal year 2009, ACF provided support to Alaskans for Responsible Mining (ARM), a coalition of 17 conservation organizations working together to address mining issues. ARM facilitates the exchange of information between member groups, and provides information to other organizations and communities facing mine developments in their areas. ARM also coordinates the support that its member groups provide to communities on mining projects. One of these is the village of Elim in Norton Sound, which is facing development of the Boulder Creek/Death Valley Uranium Mine in the watershed that is the source of the village's drinking water. Another is the Donlin Creek Mine, located on a mercury-laden ore deposit adjacent to the Kuskokwim River, which sustains large salmon populations that are a critical subsistence resource for the 22 Native villages situated along the river.



Alaskans for Responsible Mining representatives from Elim make a presentation at the Western Mining Network's No Dirty Energy Summit (left to right: Garrick Takuk, Beverly Nakarak, Emily "Funny" Murray, and Flora Simon) © Alaskans for Responsible Mining

Alaska's Oceans

Now more than ever, Alaska's oceans are coming under threat. The impacts of global warming, including rising ocean temperatures, ocean acidification, and disruption of ocean production cycles, are already altering the distribution of marine fish, and have threatened the survival of seabirds and marine mammals.

The movement of commercially valuable fish species northward as a result of this warming trend is driving the Bering Sea bottom trawl fleet to seek expansion of their operations into new areas. Bottom trawling for groundfish is one of the most destructive fishing practices prosecuted in the world's oceans. Despite closure of some sensitive areas (Bristol Bay, the Pribilof Islands, and un-fished segments of the Aleutian Islands), bottom trawling—primarily for pollock—remains a pervasive fishing practice in the Bering Sea. ACF grantees, including Bering Sea Native villages, led a successful effort to convince the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council to set a northern boundary in the Bering Sea beyond which the trawl fleet cannot pass—but the boundary is temporary, and will be reconsidered in 2011.

The villages formed the Bering Sea Elders Advisory Group, a treaty organization of 31 tribes from throughout the Bering Sea region. They are working together to limit the impacts of the Bering Sea bottom trawl fleet on marine resources on which the tribes depend for subsistence. ACF is providing support for a four-year study by the Elders Group to gather traditional knowledge about subsistence uses of living marine resources in the Bering Sea.

The study includes interviews with village elders about traditional hunting and fishing areas, as well as interviews with others who are actively engaged in fishing and hunting activities. The study also involves compiling data on the abundance and distribution of subsistence species, and the size and composition of the trawl fleet's bycatch. The results of the study will be provided to the North Pacific Council as they reconsider limits on areas open to bottom trawling in the Bering Sea.



Net pile, Unalaska, Dutch Harbor © Carla Stanley, US Fish & Wildlife Service



Bubble net banquet © Mark Kelley, 2009 Housberg Award Recipient

Circumpolar Arctic

For ACF and its grantees, climate change is very real and very threatening. We confront the impacts of global warming on a daily basis. Changes in annual precipitation and seasonal temperatures, receding permafrost, rising sea levels, greater frequency and intensity of storms along the Arctic coastline, and changes in distribution and abundance of fish and wildlife have had profound impacts on Alaska Arctic's ecosystems, and on the livelihoods and ways of life of Arctic indigenous peoples. The world's polar region is in a state of crisis, a situation that lends tremendous importance and urgency to the work of our grantees and the need for our support of their efforts.

ACF is focusing its support on the organizations and communities most directly affected by changes into the Arctic. The Northern Alaska Environmental Center and other ACF grantees actively engaged in Arctic work are currently focused on limiting oil and gas development in the Chukchi Sea, preventing development of coal and mineral mines that could have devastating impacts on the living resources of the region and the communities that depend on them, and protecting critical wildlife habitat onshore. One such area is Teshekpuk Lake near the Beaufort Sea coast, considered one of the most important waterfowl habitats in the Northern Hemisphere.

ACF also supports the work of Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT) to address the impacts of contaminants on human health in the Arctic. The Arctic environment contains surprisingly high levels of persistent organic pollutants. These contaminants are transported through atmospheric and ocean currents. Once they enter the colder waters of the Arctic, their deterioration is slowed and they bioaccumulate in Arctic food webs. Marine mammals such as ringed seals, bearded seals, walrus, and beluga whales, as well as shellfish and predatory fish, carry among the heaviest loads of contaminants. All these species are part of the traditional diet of Arctic Indigenous peoples.

ACAT was part of a successful effort to enact a United Nations treaty banning specified persistent organic pollutants (POPs) worldwide. The treaty, known as the Stockholm Convention, bans the production and use of POPs, especially those chemicals that affect northern ecosystems and people. ACAT has official NGO observer status at meetings of the signatory nations, and is now working to get the United States to ratify the treaty.

Sportsman's Alliance for Alaska

The Sportsman's Alliance for Alaska (SAA) is the only conservation entity whose sole focus is to engage hunters, anglers, hunting and fishing conservation groups, professional guides and outfitters, lodge owners, members of the outdoor media, and companies in the sporting products industry from around the country in Alaska conservation campaigns. Hunters and anglers and the groups to which they belong have considerable political influence. The SAA is working to channel that influence into positive conservation outcomes in Alaska.



In the past year, the Alliance's work focused primarily on the growing battle for the future of Bristol Bay. As the world's largest wild salmon fishery and a premier destination for anglers worldwide, the sport fishing community has rallied to this campaign. The SAA has recruited over 160 companies in the sport fishing industry to register their opposition to the proposed Pebble Mine project and additional mining plans for the Bristol Bay region. This issue has risen to the top among the sport fishing products industry and fishing conservation groups such as Trout Unlimited and the Federation of Flyfishers, both SAA allies.

The SAA has begun to engage the sport hunting community in the Bristol Bay campaign as well. Several major companies have expressed support for Bristol Bay conservation, joining hunting conservation organizations such as the Dallas Safari Club, Wildlife Forever, and the Izaak Walton League of America. These entities, as well as thousands of individual sportsmen and women, are working to influence decision makers at both the federal and state levels to ensure that Bristol Bay remains one of the planet's top sport fishing and hunting destinations. *Red Gold*, a documentary film about the Bristol Bay showdown, has received over a dozen awards at film festivals in the USA, Canada, and Europe, helping to raise awareness for this critical issue. The SAA helped with production of the film.

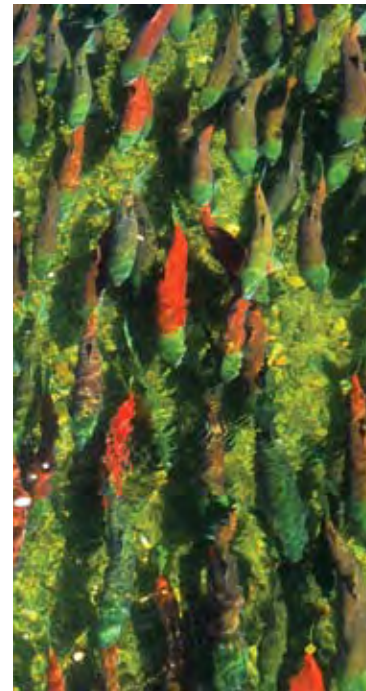
SAA staff, along with volunteers from around the country, spread the word about Alaska conservation at industry and consumer outdoor shows throughout the year. In the past year, the SAA had a presence at 18 events, reaching thousands of anglers and hunters across the nation and networking with allies in the sporting products industry and other sporting conservation organizations.



Sockeye salmon © Jim Krug
Adventure © Ian Davis



Grizzly bear © Terry Gunn



Bristol Bay plane in mist © Brian O'Keefe



Grantmaking

Thanks to your support, ACF celebrates a record year—\$2,364,851!

Of ACF's many roles in our work to ensure Alaska's healthy future, none is more central to our purpose than grantmaking. Funds generously entrusted to us by individuals, foundations, and conservation-minded businesses are strategically granted to dozens of local and regional, Alaska-based nonprofit conservation groups and projects for the greatest impact possible. We invest in conservation solutions, broadening the base of support for conservation both in and outside of Alaska, and staunchly defending Alaska's most precious and important wild lands.

Since its beginning in 1980, ACF has never had a stronger team of staff members to guide its grantmaking investments. Our five conservation experts possess a combined background of more than 60 years of Alaska conservation experience; three are former executive directors, and all have served on Alaska NGO boards (see "Our Experts on Alaska Conservation," at right).

Our team of conservation leaders tracks the issues, threats, and opportunities that will determine Alaska's future. The program team works closely with our board and grantees to develop and implement effective strategies that further ACF's conservation goals, ensuring that your philanthropic investments facilitate the greatest possible outcome. By supporting the Alaska Conservation Foundation, you become a vital partner in our efforts to address and resolve the most pressing and significant conservation needs across the state.

In fiscal year 2009, the Alaska Conservation Foundation made 145 grants, awarding a record total of \$2,364,851 to organizations working on conservation issues around the state. On the following pages are reports regarding our grantmaking efforts.



Pumpkin Patch Gap, Tongass National Forest © Scott Harris, Sitka Conservation Society

Our Experts on Alaska Conservation

Polly Carr—Program Officer for Community Capacity

Polly came to ACF after directing the Alaska Youth for Environmental Action program of National Wildlife Federation for ten years. She has focused her work in Alaska on youth empowerment, community organizing, civic engagement, and cross-cultural collaboration, serving on the boards of Spirit of Youth Foundation, Alaska Conservation Voters, and the Anchorage Diversity Advisory Commission. She is a graduate of the Alaska Humanities Forum Leadership Anchorage program and a Top 40 Under 40 award recipient.

Nick Hardigg—Executive Director

Nick Hardigg joined ACF as its executive director in January, 2007. He holds an MBA from Yale University in nonprofit management, and a bachelor's degree with honors in environmental science from Wesleyan University. Nick originally moved to Alaska in 1998 to write a business plan for Denali National Park, eventually becoming its chief of business management. He helped found Denali's Murie Science and Learning Center, and its Alaska Native interpretation program, viewed by 100,000 people annually. He is a firm believer in the value of seeking enduring solutions to conservation challenges, and the idea that people will value only that which they understand.

Brian McNitt—Program Officer for Rainforests

Brian arrived in Sitka, Alaska in 1984, and spent his first five years there as a field biologist as well as commercial salmon trolling during the summers. Then, after two years in the Environmental Studies Master's Degree Program at the University of Montana, Brian returned to Sitka in 1991. He was a board member of the Sitka Conservation Society and eventually its executive director. In 1999, Brian came to work for ACF as manager of the Alaska Rainforest Campaign.

Matt Rafferty—Program Officer for Energy and Climate

Matt is a graduate of the Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He has been a program officer at ACF since 2005, with a current portfolio that includes climate and energy issues and legislative matters. He is a graduate of the Alaska Humanities Forum Leadership Anchorage program and served on the Board of Directors for the Alaska Center for the Environment.

Ann Rothe—Deputy Director and Program Officer for Bristol Bay

Ann, a 33-year Alaska resident, graduated from Iowa State University with degrees in wildlife management and science journalism. She has worked with the US Department of the Interior, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, National Audubon Society, National Wildlife Federation, and the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council, which she helped create shortly after the Exxon Valdez oil spill. For 10 years, Ann was executive director of Trustees for Alaska. She provides expertise to the program team on strategy and decision-making, and serves as liaison to the Bristol Bay Working Group. Ann also directs our donor stewardship program.

Operating Support Grants—\$151,000 awarded

In the world of nonprofits, the most difficult fundraising is for unrestricted money. Alaska's conservation community is 80 percent funded by foundations, generally through project-restricted grant money. While these funds help facilitate important work, they do not enable the type of local donor cultivation and broad support needed to develop a stable funding base. ACF strives to correct that imbalance by providing unrestricted Operating Support Grants—the essential funds needed for a strong, sustainable grassroots conservation movement in Alaska. ACF is usually the largest single provider of unrestricted operating support to our grantees.

Unrestricted operating support allows Alaska's nonprofit conservation organizations to remain true to their missions. It affords them the freedom to address Alaska's most pressing conservation and environmental justice issues proactively and strategically, while allowing them the flexibility to attend to the practical needs of any business—like keeping the lights on and the doors open, making sure the staff is trained and competitively compensated, or purchasing the equipment they need to do their jobs efficiently and effectively.

Operating support is truly the life blood of any organization. Without it, the many distinctive and capable groups in Alaska—including this Foundation—would not survive, let alone thrive. The operating support grants we made in fiscal year 2009 helped sustain 20 of the state's most critical conservation organizations for another year so they could continue their important work on behalf of Alaska conservation, which in the end allows ACF to remain true to its own mission.

Alaska Center for the Environment
Anchorage, AK • \$8,000

*Alaska Community Action on
Toxics*
Anchorage, AK • \$7,000

Alaska Conservation Alliance
Anchorage, AK • \$10,000

Alaska Conservation Voters
Anchorage, AK • \$12,000

*Alaska Marine Conservation
Council*
Anchorage, AK • \$9,000

Alaskans for Responsible Mining
Anchorage, AK • \$6,000

Anchorage Citizens' Coalition
Anchorage, AK • \$3,000

Cook Inletkeeper
Homer, AK • \$10,000

Copper River Watershed Project
Cordova, AK • \$5,000

Denali Citizens' Council
Denali Park, AK • \$5,000

Friends of Mat-Su
Palmer, AK • \$9,000

Gwich'in Steering Committee
Fairbanks, AK • \$5,000

Lynn Canal Conservation, Inc.
Haines, AK • \$5,000

*Northern Alaska Environmental
Center*
Fairbanks, AK • \$9,000

Renewable Energy Alaska Project
Anchorage, AK • \$9,000

Sitka Conservation Society
Sitka, AK • \$7,000

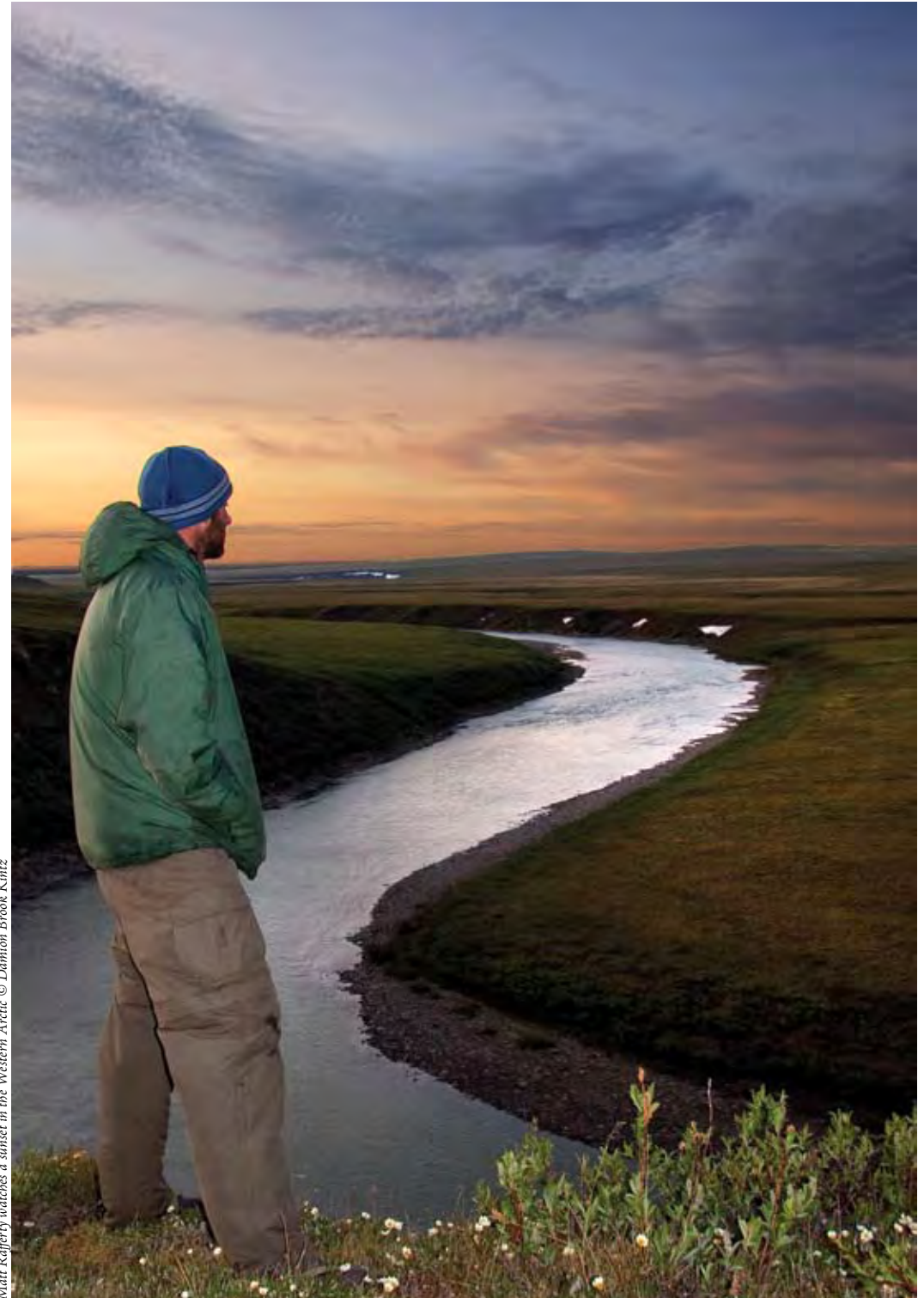
*Southeast Alaska Conservation
Council*
Juneau, AK • \$9,000

*Southeast Alaska Conservation
Council—Alaska Transportation
Priorities Project*
Juneau, AK • \$5,000

Trustees for Alaska
Anchorage, AK • \$10,000

*Yukon River Inter-Tribal
Watershed Council*
Anchorage, AK • \$8,000

Matt Refferty watches a sunset in the Western Arctic © Damien Brook Kintz



Rapid Response Fund Grants—\$14,500 awarded

ACF developed the Rapid Response Fund (RRF), the only fund of its kind in Alaska, as a means to respond to urgent environmental threats and opportunities. Through an expedited process utilizing a committee of staff and board members, RRF grants are awarded within two to four days of applying.

Because Alaska is rich in public lands, it is especially vulnerable to adverse actions—sometimes sudden and unexpected. Wild areas, biological diversity, and intact ecosystems can be eliminated or severely compromised by “stealth” legislation in the form of riders, and it is critical that such legislation be brought to the attention of those who want to preserve our remaining wild places. In other cases, crucial issues might not be adequately publicized or quickly addressed without the availability of Rapid Response funds.

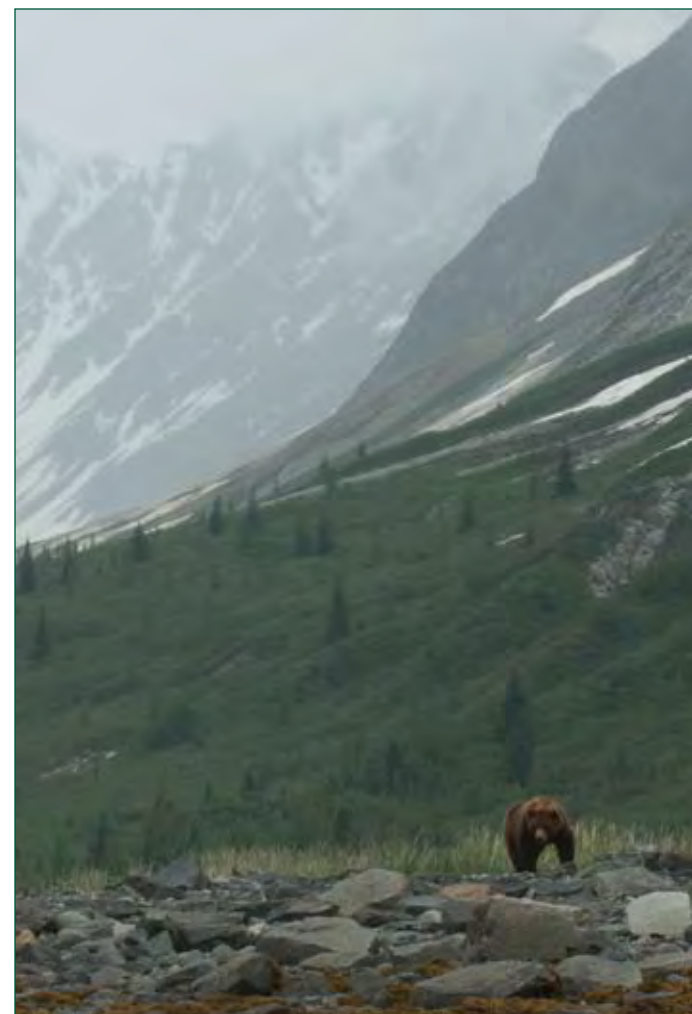
It is essential that the public is aware of proposed legislation and administrative actions so that conservationists can communicate our views to our elected representatives. Our system relies on an informed response from the people who care about the future of our natural treasures. The Rapid Response Fund helps ensure that the conservation community is able to act immediately when time is of the essence.

Since 1995, ACF has awarded over \$1 million from the RRF.

Butte Area Residents' Civic Organization

Palmer, AK • \$14,500

*Knik River Public Use Area
Management Administrative Appeal*



Brown bear, Glacier Bay National Park © Kim Heacox, 2000 Housberg Award Recipient

Watchable Wildlife Conservation Trust

The Watchable Wildlife Conservation Trust was established in 1991 as a donor-advised fund in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The trust provides crucial support for wildlife education, interpretive materials, wildlife viewing, and other conservation activities.

In fiscal year 2009, funds accrued in this trust for future distribution.

Tim Leach of Alaska Coal Working Group is dwarfed by the majesty of the Brooks Range in Alaska's Western Arctic © Damion Brook Kintz

Opportunity Grants—\$44,265 awarded

ACF maintains an Opportunity Grants Fund focused on helping organizations take advantage of emerging opportunities. Grants from this fund are made monthly, and are often geared toward increasing an organization's effectiveness—allowing groups to provide special training for staff, attend or participate in important conferences, coordinate key efforts, conduct workshops, increase membership, produce needed printed materials, and plan for the future.

Alaska Center for the Environment
Anchorage, AK + \$750
Environmental Leadership Institute
Participation

Alaska Community Action on Toxics
Anchorage, AK + \$2,000
Board Training in Grassroots
Fundraising

Alaska Marine Conservation Council
Anchorage, AK + \$2,500
Coastal Community Outreach on
Oceans Acidification and Climate
Change

Alaska Public Interest Research Group
Anchorage, AK + \$500
Clean Elections Campaign

Alaska Youth for Environmental Action
Anchorage, AK + \$2,000
Statewide Leadership Retreat

Alaska Youth for Environmental Action
Anchorage, AK + \$2,000
2008 Art in Action Project

Alaskans for Responsible Mining
Anchorage, AK + \$2,500
Strategic Planning Consultant

Anchorage Citizens' Coalition
Anchorage, AK + \$1,400
Urban Planning Presentation

Anchorage Waterways Council
Anchorage, AK + \$750
Watershed Conference Participation

Cascadia Wildlands Project
Cordova, AK + \$750
Trans-Alaska Pipeline Oversight

Cascadia Wildlands Project
Cordova, AK + \$1,500
Citizens' Oversight for Trans-Alaska
Pipeline – Stakeholder Meeting

Copper River Watershed Project
Cordova, AK + \$2,000
Strategic Planning

Earth Island Institute
Berkeley, CA + \$2,000
Cruise Ship Reform Campaign

Gwich'in Steering Committee
Fairbanks, AK + \$2,000
Participation in National Congress
of American Indians Annual
Conference

Gwich'in Steering Committee
Fairbanks, AK + \$1,000
Support for Gwich'in Gathering

ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives)
Oakland, CA + \$2,080
Alaska Municipal League-ICLEI
USA 2nd Annual Conference on
Climate Change

Northern Alaska Environmental Center
Fairbanks, AK + \$2,000
Transition Assistance

Prince William Soundkeeper
Cordova, AK + \$2,500
Grantwriting Services for Clean
Harbors Program

Prince William Soundkeeper
Cordova, AK + \$1,670
Cruise Ship Discharge Regulations/
Head Tax Campaign

Resurrection Bay Conservation Alliance
Seward, AK + \$2,000
Strategic Planning

Southeast Alaska Conservation Council—Alaska Transportation Priorities Project
Juneau, AK + \$1,500
Anchorage/Mat-Su Borough
Commuter Options: An Analysis for
Decision-Makers and the Public

Tongass Conservation Society
Ketchikan, AK + \$2,000
Financial Management

Trustees for Alaska
Anchorage, AK + \$2,500
Challenge Public Review Regulations

Garrison Wilts
Anchorage, AK + \$865
Energy Saver Project

Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment
Copper Center, AK + \$1,000
Earth Discovery Day and Changing
Seasons Programs

Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council
Anchorage, AK + \$2,500
Biennial Support Keynote Speaker



Dall ram © Mark Kelley, 2009 Housberg Award Recipient

Conservation Achievement Awards

For more than 20 years, ACF has recognized exceptional conservation efforts through its annual Conservation Achievement Awards program, which honors remarkable work and extraordinary contributions to conservation in Alaska. For descriptions of the individual grants and biographies of the recipients, please visit our website at www.alaskaconservation.org.

2009 Conservation Achievement Award Recipients

Mark Kelley—Daniel Housberg Wilderness Image Award for Excellence in Still Photography

Red Gold (Felt Soul Media)—Daniel Housberg Wilderness Image Award for Excellence in Film or Video

Megan Waggoner—Denny Wilcher Award for Young Environmental Activists

Mark Ross—Jerry S. Dixon Award for Excellence in Environmental Education

Roger Kaye—Lowell Thomas, Jr. Award for Outstanding Civil Service

Mike O'Meara—Celia Hunter Award for Outstanding Volunteer Contributions

Deborah L. Williams—Olaus Murie Award for Outstanding Professional Contributions



Bull moose, cow, and calf © Carl Johnson

Donor-Advised & Restricted Grants— \$76,166 awarded

ACF makes restricted grants using funds from donors who have specific intentions for their gifts. Donor-advised funds allow concerned individuals to be directly involved in the grantmaking process. Donor-advised funds may or may not be permanently endowed. For information on setting up a donor-advised fund, please call ACF's Deputy Director, Ann Rothe, at 907-276-1917, or email her at arothe@alaskaconservation.org.

Alaska Bird Observatory

Fairbanks, AK • \$1,500
Environmental Education Initiatives

Alaska Center for the Environment

Anchorage, AK • \$100
Operating Support

Alaska Center for the Environment

Anchorage, AK • \$1,500
Environmental Education—Trailside Discovery

Alaska Community Action on Toxics

Anchorage, AK • \$10,000
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Legacy Project

Alaska Conservation Alliance

Anchorage, AK • \$8,000
Operating Support

Alaska Conservation Voters

Anchorage, AK • \$5,000
Energy Solutions Communications

Alaska Conservation Voters

Anchorage, AK • \$12,000
Operating Support

Alaska Geographic

Anchorage, AK • \$350
Operating Support

Alaska Public Interest Research Group

Anchorage, AK • \$500
Clean Elections Campaign

Alaska Wilderness League

Washington, DC • \$500
Operating Support

Alaska Youth for Environmental Action

Anchorage, AK • \$2,500
Civics and Conservation Summit

Alaska Youth for Environmental Action

Anchorage, AK • \$500
Operating Support

Alaska Youth for Environmental Action

Anchorage, AK • \$300
Environmental Education Initiatives

Alaskans for Clean Water

Anchorage, AK • \$3,500
Clean Water Initiative Outreach

Alaskans for Responsible Mining

Anchorage, AK • \$3,700
Attendance at No Dirty Energy Summit

Anchorage Waterways Council

Anchorage, AK • \$4,150
Operating Support

Bicycle Commuters of Anchorage

Anchorage, AK • \$500
Pro-sustainable Transportation Film by Carl Battreall

Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies

Homer, AK • \$1,500
Environmental Education Initiatives

Cook Inletkeeper

Homer, AK • \$100
Operating Support

Discovery Southeast

Juneau, AK • \$1,500
Environmental Education Initiatives

Newtok Traditional Council

Newtok, AK • \$1,500
Climate Change Congressional Meeting

Northern Alaska Environmental Center

Fairbanks, AK • \$1,500
Camp Habitat Environmental Education

The Ocean Foundation

Washington, DC • \$1,500
Alaska Conservation Solutions Fund

Renewable Energy Alaska Project

Anchorage, AK • \$1,000
Operating Support

Southeast Alaska Conservation Council

Juneau, AK • \$1,000
Operating Support f

Trout Unlimited, Alaska Program

Juneau, AK • \$4,200
Clean Water Initiative Outreach

Trustees for Alaska

Anchorage, AK • \$3,000
Legal Research, Ambler Arctic Mine

Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment

Copper Center, AK • \$1,500
Environmental Education Initiatives

Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council

Anchorage, AK • \$2,665
Kobuk River Protection Effort

Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council

Anchorage, AK • \$1,101
Operating Support



Natalia Andrew of New Stuyahok relights the fire in her fish camp smoke house at Lewis Point, Bristol Bay © Nick Hall Photography



Tufted puffin pair © Steve Hillebrand, US Fish & Wildlife Service



Linnea Lenifer enjoys Alaska winter, Lemsurier Island, Icy Strait © Kim Hancox, 2000 Housberg Award Recipient

Our Partners in Conservation

Denali Legacy Society

The Denali Legacy Society is a group of extraordinarily committed supporters who have included the Foundation in their wills, trusts, or other planned giving arrangements. Society members help increase the Foundation's endowment and sustain our capacity to continue and expand critical conservation work. Their commitment to Alaska ensures a lasting legacy of care and protection that will endure forever.

John Luther & Cynthia M. Adams
Aileen T. Allen
Michael J. Ashworth
John and Jane Aspnes
Beth A. Baker, MD
Stephanie Barko
Betty E. Blumenkamp
Tim Bowman
Jean Bradshaw
Gerald R. & Janet E. Brookman
Katherine Buehler
Robert Bundy
Nancy H. Carter
Mitchell B. & Hope Cline
David Colker & Alexis Mitman Colker

Amy E. Crook
April E. Crosby & Merritt Helfferich
Jerry S. and D. Lee Dixon
Gunter S. Fonken & Agnes J. Hughes
Martha E. Gregory
Ruthanne Harstad
JoAnne Heron
Linda Hulbert
Frank Keim & Jennifer Allison
Leslie Kerr
Matt D. & Patty Kirchhoff
Grace M. Kirchner
William Lazar

Kenneth S. Leghorn & Susan H. Warner
Jay and Deborah Liggett
Mike and Marilyn Miller
Richard D. Monkman & Tina Kobayashi
Eric F. Myers
Richard & Maryellen Oman
Kimberley Pittman-Schulz & Terry Schulz
Alyson Pytte
Nathaniel P. Reed
David Rockefeller, Jr.
Hugh Rose
William L. Rutherford, MD & Jan Rutherford

Harold A. Schessler
Eleanor H. Stoddard
Jim Stratton & Colleen Burgh
Stacy Studebaker & Michael Sirofchuck
Jean Tam
Lowell Thomas, Jr. & Tay Thomas
Jules V. & Margaret B. Tileston
Donald L. Turner
Nancy Wallace
Anne P. Wieland
Deborah L. Williams
Jeanne S. Williams
Ruth Wood & John Strassenburgh
Anonymous (7)

The Great Land Giving Club

The Foundation's Great Land Giving Club is an easy, convenient way to help preserve Alaska's wildlife and wild lands and to maximize giving power over time. Club members indicate an amount they would like the Foundation to charge their credit card each month. Each member receives a statement for tax purposes at the end of the year.

Established in 2003, the club has grown each year because it enables members to more easily provide a substantial gift in support of the Foundation's important conservation work for Alaska.

Karen Beardsley
Jane C. Blackwell
Stephen J. & Carmen J. Blakely
Nathan Borson
Charles O. & Mary L. Bowers
Marsha Buck
Irene Cannon-Geary, Ph.D.
Stephen Charles
Marta A. Chase & Kicab Castaneda-Mendez
Susan Colwell
Dorothy E. Crum
Janet Curran & Jasper Hardison
Michael L. & Maxine M. Denniston
George Donart
Michael & Diane Fisher
James M. Gambino, Jr.
Scott J. & Nadine Goetz
Martha A. Hanns
Nick & Karen Hardigg
Irene F. Haughey
Scott Hed
Robert S. Herdliska
Eric R. Jensen
Bob & Ciari Johnson
Maureen Knutsen
David T. & Sheryl G. Krohne
R. L. Latterell
Jack W. & Mary R. Lentfer
M. H. Lobell
Jane W. Lusk
Richard L. & Patricia A. Lynch
Ann E. Mallard & Stanley Read
Drew A. McCalley & Marilyn V. Green

Michael C. & Roxy A. McDonagh
George E. & Laurel McLaughlin
Leroy Mensack & Marie Crowley-Mensack
Richard Monkman & Tina Kobayashi
Mary Johrde Nefedov
Nate & Catherine Peimann
James & Susan Pfeiffenberger
Pat Pourchot
Margie Pulliam
Dan J. Purnell
Ann Rappoport & David Irons
Justin Robison
John W. Runyan
Stella B. Sargent
Carl & Martha Siebe
Ivy Spohnholz & Troy Bowler
Jim Stratton & Colleen Burgh
Jean Tam
John Tangney
Jules V. & Margaret B. Tileston
Stephen Valdes
Christina VanderWende
Ruth S. von Ahlefeldt
Richard Waldmann
Erika Wolter
Diana D. Yang
Patricia G. Zebro
Scott Zehner
Anonymous (12)



Bad Hair Day—Alaska porcupine © Mark Kelley, 2009 Housberg Award Recipient

Regional Councils for Alaska

ACF established the first Regional Council in 2002. The purpose of the Regional Councils is to gather friends of Alaska together for educational and social events that are designed to bring Alaska closer to our “Lower 48” supporters. In fiscal year 2009, Councils were active in New York, San Francisco, and Seattle/Portland.

Council members are eligible to receive:

- Monthly *Northern Highlights* e-updates
- Quarterly *Dispatch* newsletters
- Annual Report
- Invitations to all council events, featuring prominent Alaska conservationists, authors, artists, scientists, policymakers, or speakers dedicated to the protection of wild Alaska
- Information on unique Alaska travel opportunities
- Opportunities to meet and/or talk with ACF board/staff
- Information on special “insider” trips to Alaska with ACF board, staff, and grantees
- Invitations to exclusive, unique conservation-related events

Council members are asked to:

- Act as regional ambassadors for the Foundation and Alaska;
- Serve on host committees or as hosts for regional events and programs; and
- Make an annual financial commitment according to level of membership, which can be paid as one gift or broken into smaller installment gifts contributed over the course of the year.

The Alaska Conservation Foundation extends sincere thanks to the members of the Councils for Alaska for their perseverance, extraordinary support, and generosity. They are truly dedicated, caring friends of Alaska.

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 Don Weeden & Vanessa Smith
 Adam Wolfensohn & Jennifer Small
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 Laura Tenner
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 R. Dennis Wiancko
 Anonymous (4)



Sand Point sign, Aleutian Islands © Steve Hillebrand, US Fish & Wildlife Service

Endowments—*Providing Funding for Today and for Years to Come*

To ensure we have the opportunity to keep Alaska healthy and vibrant far into the future, the Alaska Conservation Foundation has two types of endowments. All endowment funds are professionally managed and invested, using vigorous social and environmental screens. At the end of fiscal year 2009, ACF's endowment funds had an aggregate balance of \$4,423,518.

The **Endowment for Alaska** was established to provide ongoing funding for stewardship of Alaska's lands, waters, and wildlife forever. This endowment is the Foundation's permanent source of support for organizations, projects, and programs seeking to preserve the richness of Alaska's incomparable natural environment. Each year, funds from the Endowment for Alaska are allocated to the most deserving and critical conservation organizations and projects.

The Foundation's **named endowment funds** provide a lasting legacy to perpetuate Alaska's incredible natural heritage. Named endowments, which can be established by any donor, fund specific, significant conservation efforts around the state. Donors who establish these funds designate the conservation uses for the funds they establish. Named endowment funds help provide a strong, stable future for a particular conservation interest or passion.

Named Endowment Funds

The Alaska Fund for the Future Marine Coastal Conservation Internship Endowment endows annual internships to young adults interested in maintaining the ecological integrity of Alaska's coastal and marine systems.

The Susan Cohn Fund for Outstanding Alaska Native Writing or Storytelling endows an annual writing award honoring Alaska Native writers and storytellers whose work reflects the importance of the natural environment in their lives and cultures.

The Jerry S. Dixon Endowment Fund endows an annual award for excellence in environmental education.

The Dick Erman Memorial Fund endows an annual grant to Alaska Conservation Voters.

The Hugh S. Ferguson Wildlife Protection Endowment Fund protects and enhances Alaska's magnificent wildlife.

The Daniel Housberg Memorial Fund endows the Housberg Awards for environmental photographic and videographic excellence and advocacy.

The Celia Hunter Award Endowment endows an annual award for outstanding contributions to conservation by volunteers.

The Celia M. Hunter Alaska Conservation Leadership Fund sponsors high-quality positions for selected Alaska conservation leadership interns.

The Leghorn Family Fund protects Alaska's intact, healthy ecosystems, magnificent wildlife, and sustainable communities.

The Debbie Miller Fund for the Arctic is dedicated to saving America's Arctic.

The Olaus Murie Award Endowment sponsors an annual award for outstanding contributions to conservation by professionals.

The Sitka Conservation Society Living Wilderness Endowment Fund provides a perpetual source of support for the important work of the Sitka Conservation Society.

The Studebaker Family Environmental Education Fund provides sustainable support for environmental education in Alaska to cultivate future generations of conservation-minded people.

The Jean Tam Loon Conservation Endowment Fund is dedicated to protecting loon habitat, including Connors Bog, supporting loon projects, and educating the public to protect loon habitat in Alaska.

The Tom Walter Memorial Fund is dedicated to supporting ACF's grantmaking, and provides a critical source of funds for conservation groups throughout Alaska.

The Edgar and Peggy Wayburn Endowment Fund is dedicated to protecting and enhancing Alaska's public lands, especially those lands protected by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

The Deborah L. Williams Air Quality Fund is dedicated to protecting and enhancing Alaska's air quality.

The Jeanne S. Williams Endowment Fund is dedicated to environmental health programs and environmental programs for youth.

Special Gifts—*In Honor Of*

Honoring a friend, relative, or colleague through a gift to the Alaska Conservation Foundation is a meaningful way to celebrate an occasion or recognize their commitment to Alaska. We are extremely grateful to those who made gifts during the past fiscal year in honor of the following individuals and events:

Larry Aumiller	Guests at the Wedding of Luke
Jim DeWitt	& Nicole Pavlin
Charles Harrison	Katy Phelps
Andrew C. Heist	Alyson Pytte
John Howe	Terry Quinn
Linda Hupton	David Rockefeller, Jr.
Nancy Lehman	Sue Cohn Rockefeller & David
Tom Meacham	Rockefeller, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Nedilsky	Jim Stratton
Larry & Kathy Neptune	Anonymous (2)
Dan & Mary Noonan	

Special Gifts—*In Memory Of*

A meaningful and lasting way to pay tribute to friends or loved ones who have passed away is with a thoughtful contribution to an important cause. The Foundation extends sincere thanks to those who made gifts this year in loving memory of these individuals:

Hannah Corse
Daniel P. Dryden
Chelsea Howe
Frances E. Latterell
Gordon Studebaker
Phil Walden
Clyde and Irene West

Bequests—*We Will Always Remember*

The Alaska Conservation Foundation gratefully remembers the generous and thoughtful individuals whose estates provided us with crucial funds during the last fiscal year. We are honored to help perpetuate their love of Alaska and their deep commitment to its future.

Jane L. Forsyth
Ruby Q. Lokensgard
Patricia Sterling
Anonymous (1)

Alaska Conservation Foundation Giving Circles

During the past year, the Alaska Conservation Foundation is fortunate to have been the recipient of many generous gifts and grants from thoughtful and concerned individuals, corporations, organizations, and foundations from around the nation. We are deeply indebted to them for sharing our commitment to a strong, healthy future for Alaska's wild lands, waters, and wildlife; they are strategic partners as well as cherished friends. It is our sincere pleasure to extend a heartfelt thanks to all who supported our work during the fiscal year of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. The support and trust of our donors have been key factors in all of our conservation successes.

Presidents' Circle

\$100,000+

Energy Foundation
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
Sea Change Foundation
Wiancko Family Donor Advised Fund of the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole

Champions' Circle

\$50,000 to \$99,999

Argosy Foundation
Harder Foundation
George H. and Jane A. Mifflin Memorial Fund
Turner Foundation, Inc.
Anonymous (1)

Benefactors' Circle

\$25,000 to \$49,999

444S Foundation
Currents of Change
Eaglemere Foundation, Inc.
Earth Share
EARTHWORKS
George Gund Foundation
Moore Family Foundation
John L. Tishman
Wolfensohn Family Foundation

Directors' Circle

\$10,000 to \$24,999

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Paula Botstein, MD and Robert Usadi
Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment
Helen Clay Frick Foundation

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving through the Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund

The Philancon Fund at the Boston Foundation
Susan Cohn Rockefeller
The Edmund and Eveline Schuster Family Fund of The Alaska Community Foundation
Sitka Conservation Society
WestWind Foundation
Anonymous (1)

Guardians' Circle

\$5,000 to \$9,999

American Conservation Association
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Rhonda L. Bennon and Martin E. Brown
Robert Bundy
Grenold and Dorothy Collins
Alaska Charitable Trust
Barbara Ettinger and Sven Huseby
Paul Flynn
David Garbasz and Joanna Barsh
Jack Harang
Kenneth S. Leghorn and Susan H. Warner
Janet McAlpin
The Paul and Antje Newhagen Foundation, an advised fund of Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Nate and Catherine Peimann
Reese Charitable Lead Trust
David and Janet E. Robertson
Matt and Jessica Sheehan
S B Foundation
Skaggs Foundation
Anonymous (8)

Stewards' Circle

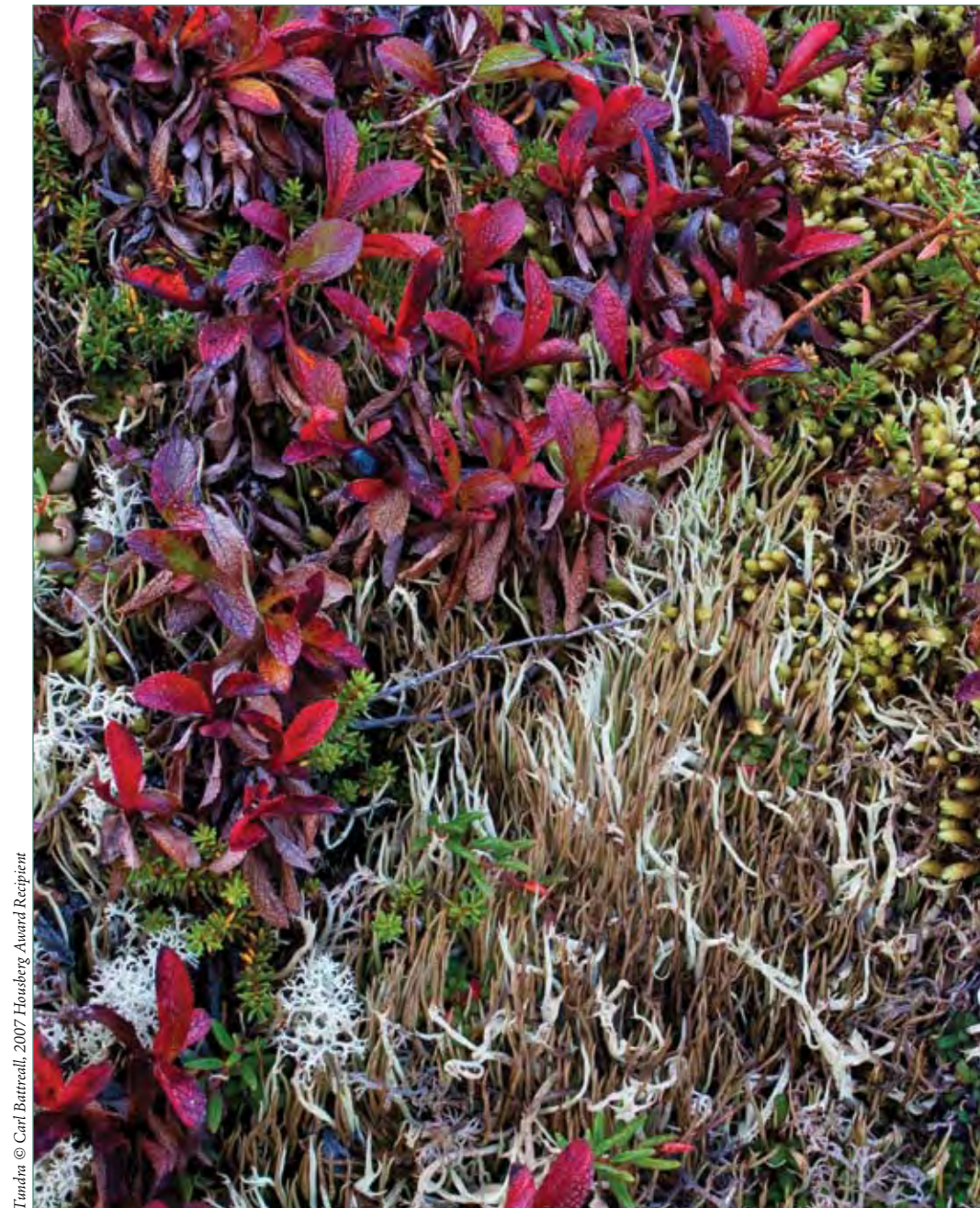
\$2,500 to \$4,999

Alaska Community Share
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Putter and Nannie Brown
Jeff E. and Andrea R. Butler
Marta A. Chase and Kicab Castaneda-Mendez
Daniel E. Cohn
ConocoPhillips Company
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Robert Hartmann and Denise Danisch
Lowell Johnston and Franny Oliveri
Frank Keim and Jennifer Allison
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The Nature Conservancy
Northern Alaska Environmental Center
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Michael M. and Lenore L. Roberts
Dr. William L. and Jan Rutherford
Sockeye Cycle Co./Thomas Ely
Philippa Strahm
Jan H. and Susan J. Suwinski
Ellen Webster and Shirlee Bromley
William B. Wiener, Jr.
Anonymous (2)

Advocates' Circle

\$1,000 to \$2,499

Alaska Discovery, Inc.
Angling Trade Magazine
Ranjit Arpels-Josiah
The Charles and Charlotte Bird Fund at the San Diego Foundation



Tundra © Carl Battreall, 2007 Housberg Award Recipient

Campion Foundation
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 Mitchell B. and Hope Cline
 Michael F. and Catherine T. Coscia
 Cynthia Crane and Ted Story
 April E. Crosby and Merritt Helfferich
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 Fly Fishers Symposium
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 Peter L. and Carol N. Gluck
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 Jules V. and Margaret B. Tileston
 Jerry Tone and Martha Wyckoff
 Ruth Wood and John Strassenburgh
 John M. Zebutis
 Anonymous (5)

Supporters' Circle \$500 to \$999

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 Thomas Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation
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 Stephen Valdes
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 Stephan H. Williams
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 Larry and Karla Zervos
 Anonymous (11)

Bristol Bay Campaign Partners

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 National Parks Conservation Association
 Nunamta Aulukestai
 Renewable Resources Coalition, Inc.
 Trout Unlimited
 The Wilderness Society

Aveda Earth Month Supporters

ACF is grateful to the following salons and individuals who contributed to the work of the Foundation through the Aveda Earth Month fundraising effort.

Accent of Style, Anchorage
 Chez Ritz, Anchorage
 Darae's Salon & Spa, Anchorage
 Elements, Fairbanks
 Halo Salon, Anchorage
 Meg Allen Salon, Anchorage
 Jenni Pollard
 Salon 264, Sitka
 Tangles, Anchorage
 Vizhunz Salon, Kodiak



Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Position

Fiscal Year 2009: July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009

Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	2,616,303
Grants and other public support receivable	-
Prepaid expenses and other assets	27,958
Long-term investments	4,710,825
Cash surrender value of life insurance policies	106,599
Office equipment	7,092

Total assets **\$7,468,777**

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities:

Accounts payable	50,555
Accrued payroll and related liabilities	75,768
Grants and awards payable	278,865
Capital lease obligation	8,680
Gift annuity liability	125,992

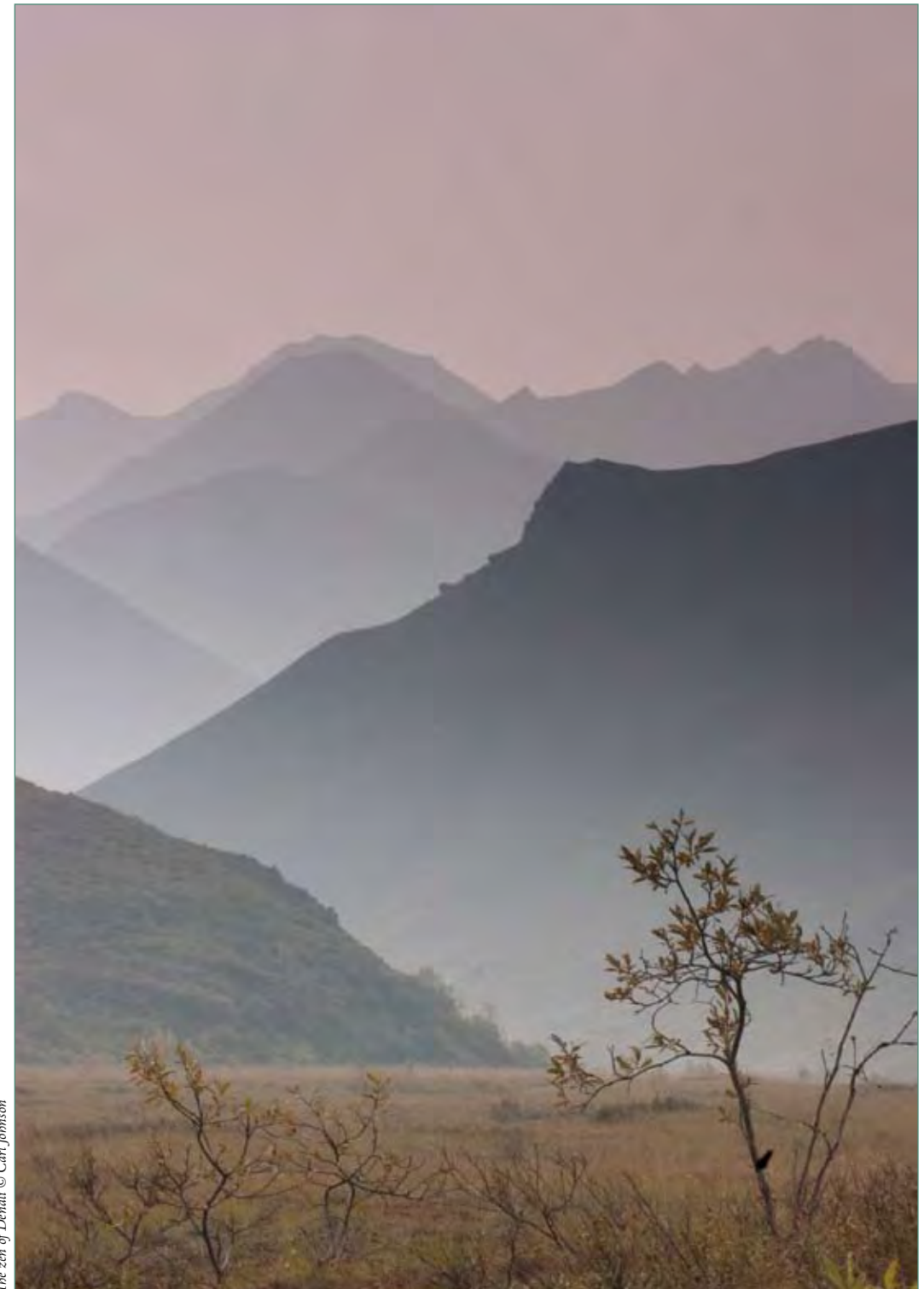
Total Liabilities **\$539,860**

Net Assets:

Unrestricted:	
Board designated for endowment	-
Designated for programs	-
Undesignated	955,393
Temporarily restricted	1,697,141
Permanently restricted	4,276,383

Total Net Assets **\$6,928,917**

Total Liabilities and Net Assets **\$7,468,777**

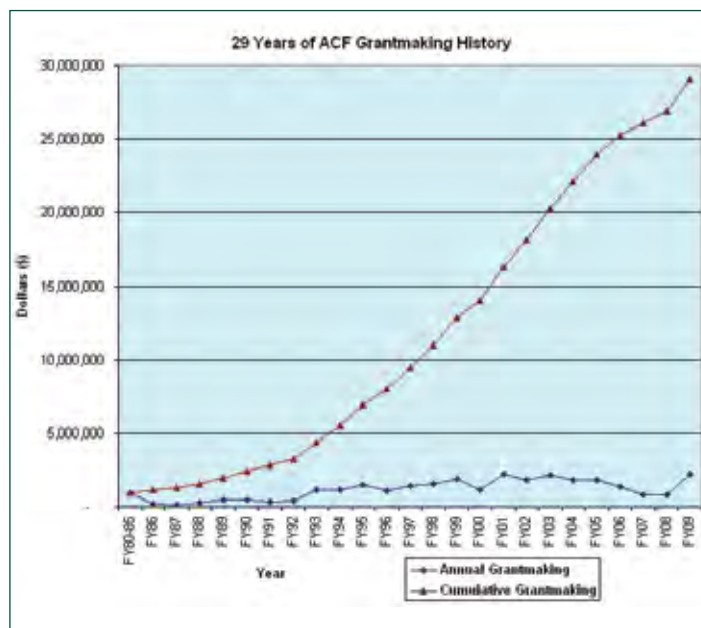




Ice "shooters" off South Sawyer glacier © Kim Hacox, 2000 Housberg Award Recipient

A respected charity you can count on—for almost 30 years.

- **"A-" Rating:** ACF currently receives an "A-" rating and is recognized as one of the nation's Top-rated Charities by the American Institute of Philanthropy (www.charitywatch.org).
- **Better Business Bureau:** ACF is an accredited charity, meeting all 20 standards for Charity Accountability (www.bbb.org).
- **EarthShare:** ACF meets all eligibility criteria, and "operates with the highest possible ethical and professional standards." (www.earthshare.org)
- **Combined Federal Campaign:** ACF fully meets the eligibility for giving through the Combined Federal Campaign (#12062, <http://www.opm.gov/CFC/>).



Statement of Activities

Fiscal Year 2009: July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009

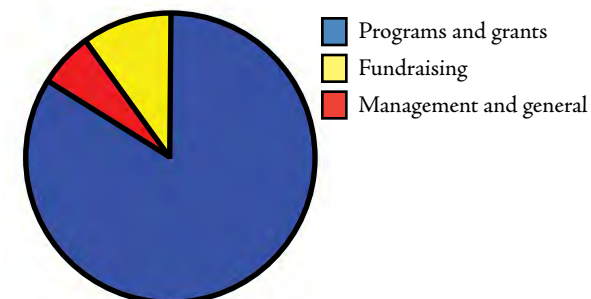
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Totals
Public Support and Revenue				
Public support	641,775	271,201	29,091	942,067
Grants	167,737	3,613,113	-	3,780,850
Investment income	(243,114)	-	(400,875)	(643,989)
Events	18,608	32,307	-	50,915
Net assets released from restriction	3,206,006	(3,206,006)	-	-
Total Public Support and Revenue	3,791,012	710,615	(371,784)	4,129,843
Expenses				
Program services				
Grants and awards	2,213,355	-	-	2,213,355
Programs	1,146,739	-	-	1,146,739
Total program services	3,360,094	-	-	3,360,094
Supporting services				
Management and general	249,422	-	-	249,422
Fundraising	397,495	-	-	397,495
Total supporting services	646,917	-	-	646,917
Total Expenses	\$4,007,011	-	-	\$4,007,011
Change in Net Assets	(215,999)	710,615	(371,784)	122,832
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$1,171,389	\$986,526	\$4,648,167	\$6,806,082
Net Assets at End of Year	\$955,390	\$1,697,141	\$4,276,383	\$6,928,914

Percentage of Expenses Spent on Programs

Fiscal Year 2009: July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009

Programs and Grants	\$3,360,094
Management and General	\$249,422
Fundraising	\$397,495
Total	\$4,007,011

Programs and Grants	84%
Management and General	6%
Fundraising	10%
(Percentages rounded)	



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ACF staff members (top, l to r): Polly Carr, George Page, Danielle Williams, Tina Adair; (bottom, l to r): Ramona Keebler, Nick Hardigg, Matt Rafferty, Leah Doney-Neel. Not pictured: Ann Rothe, Lorraine Guyer, Brian McNitt, and Scott Hed © Carl Johnson (www.carljohnsonphoto.com)



Wolf and magpie © Tom Collapsy (www.wildnorthphoto.com)

Our Foundation Team

Tina M. Adair, *Communications Manager*
Polly Carr, *Program Officer*
Leah M. Doney-Neel, *Annual Giving and Development Coordinator*
Lorraine Guyer, *Donor Relations Manager*
Nick Hardigg, *Executive Director*
Scott Hed, *Director, Sportsman's Alliance for Alaska, Sioux Falls, SD*
Ramona Keebler, *Donor Information Specialist*
Brian McNitt, *Program Officer, Sitka, AK*
George R. Page, *Director of Finance and Operations*
Matt Rafferty, *Program Officer*
Ann Rothe, *Deputy Director*
Danielle S. Williams, *Program and Communications Associate*

How You Can Help

Since 1980, Alaska Conservation Foundation has been at the center of conservation activity in Alaska. Through thoughtful grantmaking, ACF has taken major steps in preserving the last truly intact, healthy wild lands, waters, and wildlife in our nation. Through the Foundation's strategic funding to local conservation groups across the state, we create powerful partnerships that are dedicated to caring for Alaska's priceless natural resources.

This critical work is made possible through the investment of caring, dedicated people—our donors. Thousands of people from around the nation and beyond have provided the financial support to help keep Alaska wild, strong, and healthy for generations to come.

Our donors have a broad range of gifting opportunities through which to invest in protecting Alaska. These are designed to meet the individual needs of donors, and they include cash gifts, online donations through our secure website, the Great Land Giving Club, workplace giving, and a variety of planned and legacy gifts that can be customized for each donor. Please call us at 907-276-1917 or visit our website at www.alaskaconservation.org to learn more about how you can invest in a strong, healthy future for Alaska.

Planned Giving

While the work of the Alaska Conservation Foundation and its partners often deals with immediate issues, our primary goal of protection for Alaska reaches far into the future. We take a long-range perspective and strive to fulfill present, anticipated, and even unexpected needs. A planned gift to the Foundation's endowment allows us not only to meet today's critical conservation goals, but also to sustain Alaska's natural heritage well into the future. Thoughtful planned giving can also offer tax savings, and may provide needed income to donors and their families.

There are many ways a donor can help provide for Alaska and for their family's future today. With the assistance of a personal attorney or financial advisor, the Foundation works to plan gifts that suit the unique personal needs of each donor. Following are some of the options for planned giving. If you have questions or would like more information about planned giving options, please call ACF at 907-276-1917, or speak with your attorney or financial advisor.

Bequest

Name the Foundation as a beneficiary in a will or trust.

Gift of Securities or Stock

Contribute appreciated stock or other securities directly to the Foundation. This may eliminate capital gains tax and reduce current year income taxes.

Gift of Life Insurance

Name the Foundation as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy, or purchase a policy naming the Foundation as owner.

Gift of Retirement Assets

Name the Foundation as the residual beneficiary of retirement plan assets, including IRA, SEP-IRA, 401(k), or other qualified retirement plan. Retirement assets can also be left to the Foundation via a will or trust.

Gift of Retained Life Estate

Deed ownership of a home or other valuable property to the Foundation while retaining occupancy. This may produce tax advantages while still enjoying your home or property during your lifetime.

Charitable Remainder Trusts and Lead Trusts

Create a trust that pays a fixed or variable income to the Foundation for a set term, and then passes on to heirs or the Foundation. Trusts are managed by financial professionals to guarantee proper rates of return.

Charitable Gift Annuities

The Alaska Conservation Foundation manages the annuity during the donor's lifetime and pays the donor an annual sum. Upon the donor's death, the Foundation keeps the remainder of the asset.



Bohemian waxwing © Carl Johnson



Photo & Art Credits

ACF is extremely grateful to the photographers who donated the images for this *Annual Report & Calendar*. We are fortunate to be able to share these photos with our donors, all of whom—like these talented artists—are true advocates for Alaska.

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Tom Collopy (www.wildnorthphoto.com)
Cook Inletkeeper (www.inletkeeper.org)
Matt Davidson
Ian Davis
SH Deem
Magnus Elander (International Conference for Arctic
Research Planning)
Dennis Gann, Cook Inletkeeper
Terry Gunn (www.terrygunn.com)
Gregory Gusse (www.axua.com)
Nick Hall (www.nickhallphotography.com, from his
book *Seasons of Subsistence: Native Life in Bristol Bay*)
Nicole Hampsten, 2009 ACF Conservation Intern
Scott Harris, Sitka Conservation Society
(www.sitkawild.org)
Kim Heacox, 2000 Housberg Award Recipient
(www.kimheacox.com)
Carl Johnson (www.carljohnsonphoto.com)
Mark Kelley, 2009 Housberg Award Recipient
(www.markkelley.com)
Damion Brook Kintz
Jim Krug

Tim Leach, Alaska Coal Working Group
Erin McKittrick and Bretwood Higman
(www.groundtruthtrekking.org)
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Brian O'Keefe (www.brianokeefephotos.com/)
Penny Panlener and Simon Goldstein
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Harlin Savage, Resource Media
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US Fish & Wildlife Service:
Mike Boylan
Donna Dewhurst
Steve Hillebrand
Bill Raften
Elaine B. Rhode
Carla Stanley
US Forest Service, Anan Interpretive Staff
US Geological Survey
US National Park Service
Kaci Fullwood
Chris Russoniello
Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council
Matt Hage
Jon Waterhouse

There is no better way to convey the diverse beauty of Alaska than through such photographs. The time, work, talent, and expense that goes into producing them is beyond measure.

If you would consider donating your work for our next *Annual Report & Calendar*, please contact Tina M. Adair, Communications Manager, at tadair@alaskaconservation.org.

This Annual Report and Calendar was designed in-house and printed on recycled paper. Copies are available free of charge. If you would like one sent to a friend, please email us at acfinfo@alaskaconservation.org.

Cover photo: © Carl Johnson / This page: Walrus © Magnus Elander, International Conference for Arctic Research Planning



January: Western Arctic



February: Cook Inlet



March: Bering Sea



April: Arctic National Wildlife Refuge



December: Copper River Basin

Alaska Conservation Foundation: A Conservation Journey Across Alaska in 12 Months

This Annual Report and Calendar are designed to inform you about the significant work of the Alaska Conservation Foundation and to highlight the majesty of Alaska's wilderness, the threats facing that wilderness, and the efforts to protect it.

These lands, waters, and creatures are truly our most precious "natural resources." Your care and commitment are essential if we are to maintain Alaska's legacy for future generations. Your support of ACF makes a great difference to Alaska—every month of the year.



November: Interior Alaska

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May: Southeast Alaska



June: Prince William Sound



October: Seward Peninsula—
Ancient Beringia



September: Yukon River Delta



August: Southcentral Alaska



July: Bristol Bay Region